

A  
TREATISE  
OF  
MILITARY  
EXERCISE,

CALCULATED

FOR THE USE OF THE AMERICANS.

In which every Thing that is supposed can be of Use  
to them, is retained, and such Manteuvres, as are  
only for Shew and Parade, omitted.

TO WHICH IS ADDED.

Some DIRECTIONS on the other Points  
of DISCIPLINE.

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EXERCISES  
IN THE  
ART OF

FOR THE USE OF THE  
SCHOOL

OF THE  
DISTRICT

# DEDICATION

T O

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DANIEL ROBERDEAU,  
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TIMOTHY MATLACK, }

*Colonels to the Five MILITIA Battalions  
of the City of Philadelphia.*

GENTLEMEN,

A Work originally intended for the use of your corps, and undertaken at the desire of some of you, claims some right to your protection. The author, therefore, begs leave to address it to you; and at the same time to assure you, that he is,

GENTLEMEN,

*Your most humble*

*and obedient servant,*

LEWIS NICOLA.

DEDICATED TO

JOHN DICKINSON  
DANIEL ROBERTS  
JOHN ADAMS  
THOMAS WELLS and  
TIMOTHY MAITLAND

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## INTRODUCTION.

**T**HAT officers who devote their whole time and attention to the military profession, and are paid for making it their business, should amuse themselves with manœuvres, more calculated for shew than utility in the day of battle, is not only allowable, but also commendable, as it keeps their men employed, and renders them more ready and expert in those operations that are useful and absolutely necessary; but the case is widely different with a set of men, who, compelled by the unhappy state of the times, take up arms to defend their liberties, with a design to lay them down as soon as the end proposed is obtained: In such a situation to teach men manœuvres of mere shew and parade, is both cruel and impolitic. Cruel, as it wastes time they could better employ in following their different professions, from which the maintenance of themselves and families must be drawn. Impolitic, as thereby time is thrown away upon trifles, which might be better employed on essentials: And to men in this situation, time is precious.

*ciens, as Citizens seldom have recourse to arms 'till the occasion is urgent.*

*No one thing is more carefully to be attended to than preventing the men from falling into confusion; as this misfortune may prove the destruction not only of that particular corps, but also of the whole army; therefore every thing that can have the least tendency that way is to be avoided; for which reason all manœuvres, by which a corps is disjointed, and its parts separated, should as far as possible be rejected; as in re-uniting, unless men are extremely expert in their business, they will in some places be crowded, in others improper intervals will be left; and a vigilant enemy will seize every opportunity, and employ all means of encreasing the confusion and destroying the corps. On these principles the following directions are founded.*

*What has induced the battalions of this city to draw up two deep, I know not, but look on it as a dangerous practice, which may expose them to unavoidable destruction; for if close attacked, by a battalion three deep, they will not be able to resist the shock, but must be overturned and destroyed. As all other troops are drawn up three deep, ours should follow*

follow their examples, to be on a footing with them. By drawing up into two ranks, the front is extended, but no additional fire or strength is obtained, on the contrary, the latter is diminished, and the former no way advantaged, as no greater quantity of fire can be produced by a certain number of men from their being drawn up in two instead of three ranks. One reason I have heard assigned for this practice is, that the men, being as yet raw, the rear rank might, in firing, hurt the front; but the danger is greater when drawn up in two than in three ranks, as may be plainly proved. When two deep, the shortest men must fire over the heads of the tallest, or between them; but when drawn up three deep, the front rank kneeling, the second, or lowest men, easily fire over their heads, and the rear, who are of the second size, more commodiously fire between the men of the second rank.

It may be asked for what reason I always use the word subdivision, instead of company, when I mention the division of the battalion? My reason is, that as companies of the same corps are not always equally strong, owing to sickness and other accidents, the subdivisions by companies would consist of unequal numbers of files, which would have a bad look, and be

inconvenient; but when told off in subdivisions, consisting of an equal number of files, as near as possible, these inconveniences are avoided.

When the same evolution can be performed more ways than one, I always prefer that which is most simple. Before I quit this subject, I must observe, that there is a species of war, with which I am unacquainted, that is, bush-fighting; but as this may be very necessary in so woody a country as this, all the troops should be instructed therein.

The honour of a corps in a great measure is placed in the colours, and the loss of them loads the body, which meets with such a misfortune, with a large portion of infamy: Therefore they should be treated with all possible respect, and the men habituated to have a high degree of veneration for them, which will make them more zealous to protect them in time of danger, and more unwilling to quit the field without them, for which purpose, when the men ground their arms in the field, till all the companies are assembled, each colour should be given in charge to a centry, and not suffered to be touched by any but military persons.

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# A TREATISE, &c.

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## CHAPTER I.

*Of the number of companies most convenient to form a battalion, with some observations on the most eligible manner of making our defence against regular troops.*

ALL the battalions in the British regular troops consist of ten companies each, viz. one of grenadiers, one of light infantry and eight battalion companies. This mode, though very good for war carried on in Europe might not to be strictly followed by us. Bold and desperate attacks, such as are frequently practised in Europe, and performed by grenadiers, either in pitched battles or sieges, are at present out of the question. To engage in the former against veteran troops, thoroughly disciplined and used to war, would, in our present situation, with only new and unpractised troops, be imprudent; and having no fortified towns (a few in Canada excepted) to attack or defend, grenadiers are unnecessary to us; in lieu thereof I believe it would be good

to substitute a company of riflemen \* to each battalion. A light infantry company, well chosen, I conceive, is the most useful body of troops we can have. This should consist of chosen officers and men, able to perform long and expeditious marches; for which purpose farmers and country-labourers are in general better qualified than tradesmen from large towns, most of whom lead sedentary lives. They should have arms a little lighter than the battalion; their coats ought to be without sleeves, which should be fixed to their jackets, that in very warm weather, and when more than usual expedition is necessary, they may disencumber themselves of the former. When not employed on actual service, they should be trained to long and expeditious marches, not less than ten miles out, and to return the same day; if longer, the better. By this means we should have a body of men ready to fly from one place to another, and harass the enemy on all occasions. Thus each corps would consist of every species of troops, artillery excepted, that can be of service to us. In so covered

\* Using rifles in war is certainly savage and cruel, but the Americans may alledge in their defence the law of absolute necessity, which supercedes all other obligations: for they, undisciplined and unused to arms, are compelled to make use of every advantage Providence has put in their power, in order to effectually resist regular and well disciplined troops.

vered a country as this, pioneers are very necessary, one from every battalion company, each provided with an ax and saw, to open roads in the woods and remove obstructions in the way of the troops, also to fell trees, to form an abatis, to impede the march of an enemy.

I have already observed, that in our present situation it would be very imprudent in us to engage in pitched battles with veteran troops; and the very nature of this country points out the method of defence we ought to pursue, not having any extensive plains so draw up armies in order of battle, but intersected by large rivers, in many places covered with woods and swampy grounds; even our fences are in some measure entrenchments, which would afford a considerable degree of shelter to our men, so that should an enemy penetrate any distance into the country, which I much doubt, they would pass their time badly, harassed on all sides day and night, officers and men killed or wounded without perceiving their enemies, or having it in their power to take their revenge, their parties cut off, if they should venture, or be compelled by necessity, to send out any in search of provisions, besides the constant opportunities the soldiers would have to desert, which probably several would embrace: If an enemy was exposed for any

time to these inconveniences, in all likelihood few would return. Besides the advantages of situation, we have another from the nature of our troops: Not having any game acts in America, to restrain its inhabitants from the use of fire-arms, they are in general good marksmen, and it would be difficult for any of them to put a gun to his shoulder without covering some object: This is far from being the case with European soldiers, few of whom ever fired a gun before they were enlisted. It may be objected, that if an enemy was to penetrate any way into the country, they would burn and destroy every thing within their reach. This is highly probable; but would it not be much more eligible to sacrifice a dozen or a score farm-houses than venture the destruction of our army, that would greatly hurt the cause by a defeat, which is generally attended with evil consequences; besides the loss, which should be borne by the people in general, would scarcely be felt. What would have been the consequences of the Lexington affair, had our people been as well prepared and armed as at present? Probably the entire destruction of the whole party, not one of whom would, in all likelihood, have returned to Boston; and how trifling was the mischief they were able to do? I may be asked, why I have given directions in the following treatise, which are  
only



only useful in close engagements, when I disapprove of them? My answer is, that though I recommend the avoiding them as much as possible, I would have our troops prepared for all events, that in case at some time they should be compelled to sustain a close attack, they may know how to defend themselves. In streets and broad roads, where there are no trees to fell, in order to stop the passage, other expedients may be used. In the former bags of cotton or wool, and empty casks with one head out, should be arranged across the streets, and filled with beds, blankets, cork, or other soft matters; in the latter waggons with their wheels buried to the axle-trees, and the body filled with hay, straw, &c. will make no despicable entrenchment.

## CHAP. II.

*Directions to be observed by officers and men, previous to the forming the battalion, and by the adjutant in forming it.*

**W**HEN the men are warned by the drum to assemble, those of each company should immediately repair to their particular parade, where they should be drawn up by the serjeants in two or three ranks, according to the custom of the corps. The serjeants should be careful in well sizing their men, placing the

the tallest in the front, and the rest in the rear, if but two ranks; if three, the tallest men should be placed in the front, those of the second size in the rear, and the lowest in the centre rank. The men in each rank should be placed according to their size from right and left to the centre, that is, the tallest man should be placed on the right, and one equal, or next in size to this first, on the left, and so alternately to the centre. To perform this in the most convenient manner, every serjeant should be provided with a size roll, in which the name of each man should be placed, according to his stature.\*

When the companies are thus formed, the officers should examine the arms, accoutrements and ammunition of the men; after this they should by themselves or the serjeants march the men to the regimental parade or field.

When a battalion assembles by companies, those that first arrive should take up the ground that the officer thinks will be the company's

\* These regulations only concern the preparations for field-days, reviews, &c. But such formalities are not to be observed on sudden alarms, when the drum beats to arms. In this case the officers and men should repair with all expedition to their alarm-post, as the occasion may be so pressing as not to admit time for forming the companies regularly.

pany's post in battalion, those that come afterwards should march in the rear of those before arrived, and draw up on their own ground as near as they can judge, and dress in the same line, except that which escorts the colours, which here is always the light infantry; this, if it arrives on the left of the battalion, or any part thereof, must march along the front, and must be received with fixed arms, drums beating, and officers saluting with their hats. The colours should remain with the escorting company till the battalion is formed, and they are ordered to their posts. If the company is ordered to ground their arms, each colour must be left in the care of a sentinel, and none but military persons be permitted to handle them.

When the companies are all arrived, the adjutant should examine whether any of them have an odd man, and take him out, otherwise the battalion will be irregularly formed, the front rank having more men than the rear. The odd men may be employed to keep the ground in front of the battalion clear, or to form additional files. When this is done, he should proceed to form the battalion as follows:

*Take care to form the battalion!—Right-hand file  
stand fast!—To the right form the battalion!*

The

The whole, except the right-hand file, face to the right.

*March!*

The whole close their files so as to allow sufficient room for the men when they face to the front, and also some for the officers, when they fall in, otherwise the files will be crowded, and be obliged to incline to the right and left, that they may have sufficient room to handle their arms, which irregular motion looks bad.

*Take care!—Face to the front!*

He should then examine how many files the battalion consists of, and, having deducted the files for the reserve, compute the number each platoon must consist of. As it seldom happens that the number of files can be divided by sixteen without any residue, the supernumerary files should be divided among the platoons, beginning with the right and left, one file to each platoon. The most usual way among the military for the adjutant to know the number of files in the field is, for a serjeant of each company to give him a return in writing of the number of files his company consists of, specifying the odd men, if any. Having made his calculation, he must tell off his platoons, placing a serjeant to each, who is to dress with the front rank, those on the right of the colours or standard to stand

stand on the right of the platoon, and the contrary for those on the left wing, acquainting him with the number of the platoon, the firing it belongs to, and its place therein; also the right and left of the grand and subdivisions: all which the serjeant must carefully attend to, that he may inform the officer, who comes to command the platoon, thereof. The serjeant must also carefully take notice of his right and left-hand man, that, after the manual, he may know where to find his place.

When the officers take their posts for firing, the serjeants should fall into the rear rank, take care that the men do their duty, and be otherwise serviceable, as occasion may require. They are also of further utility in this place, as by filling up the intervals in the rear of the officers, they connect the detached parts of the rank, and prevent the men from uncovering their file-leaders. As soon as the adjutant has completed the battalion, he should inform the commanding officer that the battalion is ready. While the adjutant is telling off the men in the front, the serjeant-major should do the same in the rear, by this means mistakes may be discovered and rectified.

If not otherwise directed by the commanding officer, the major proceeds to make the officers take their post in battalion. This

formerly used to be done by seniority, the oldest captain on the right, the second on the left, and so on through all the ranks. By this method it often happened that two captains were in the right or left-hand subdivision, one of which commanded only a platoon, while the second subdivision in either wing was commanded by a lieutenant. To obviate this, it was ordered that the officers of each company should remain with their respective companies; but as many casualties, such as death, sickness, absence, &c. especially after a battle, when it sometimes happens that not one officer, of some companies, remains capable of service, the commanding officer must remedy this inconvenience as he shall think best. The captain should be on the right of his company, the first lieutenant on the left, the second lieutenant, if one, on the right, some distance from the captain, and the ensign between the first and second lieutenants; if there is no second lieutenant the ensign takes post in the centre. This regards only the right wing, and the foregoing order must be reversed in the left wing: The captain taking post on the left of his company, and the first lieutenant on the right, &c. which is to be done by word of command from the major.

*Officers! Take post in battalion!*

The

The captains and second lieutenants of the left wing face to the left, the first lieutenants and ensigns to the right.

*March!*

The officers who faced, face again to the right and left, to their proper front. These words of command should also serve for the ensigns, with the colours, to take their post, by facing to the right or left, according as the company that escorted them is placed. This is the method practised by the regulars, the ensign that carries the first colour being with the colonel's company on the right, and the second with the lieutenant colonel's company on the left, each ensign facing to the right and left inwards, and marching along the front of the battalion to the centre. The practice followed by the battalions of this city, of escorting the standard and colours by half of the light-infantry company, is amusing, but is time lost.

### CHAP. III.

#### *Of the manual exercise.\**

**T**HE ranks being at four good paces from each other, the manual may be

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per-

\* If riflemen are substituted for grenadiers, they should not join with the battalion in any of their manoeuvres or exercise, their business being of a quite different nature; but when they march by a general, at a review, they may form a division in the rear of the battalion.

performed, either with open or close files; if the former, the major gives the following words of command:

*Take care to double your files!*

*Left-hand files! To the right, double!*

The left-hand, or every second file, faces briskly to the right.

*March!*

The files that faced take a step with their left feet to the rear, and a second with their right feet, by which they face to the rear, and march till each rank has gained four paces from that which will be in its front when they come to the right about.

*Halt!*

The files that doubled come to the right about, and cover their file-leaders. In the Prussian service the files that are to double do not go to the rear, but fall in between the ranks that stand fast, by which means they go through their manual at half distance.

*Officers! Take your posts in the rear of the battalion!*

The officers recover their arms, and go to the right about; the serjeants recover their arms, and face to the right and left outwards.

*March!*

If the files are open, the officers march through the intervals till they are four paces beyond the rear rank; the serjeants march round



round the flanks of the battalion 'till they arrive at such a distance (generally about thirty paces) that they can draw up at some distance in the rear of the general or commanding officer, then face inwards and march 'till they draw up in front of the battalion, taking care to divide the ground equally between them. The drummers and fifers march to the front, and draw up in the rear of the commanding officer, between him and the serjeants.

If the files are close, the officers must pass through the intervals between the platoons.

*Halt!*

The officers come to the right about, the serjeants face the battalion, and both order their arms, and the ensigns the colours.

*Position of a SOLDIER under arms.*

To stand straight and firm upon his legs; head turned to the right; heels close; toes a little turned out; the belly drawn in a little, but without constraint; the breast a little projected; shoulders square to the front, and kept back; the right hand hanging straight down the side, with the palm close to the thigh; the left elbow not to be turned out from the body; the firelock to be carried on the left shoulder, as low down as can be admitted without constraint; the three last fingers under the butt; the fore finger and thumb

thumb before the swell; the flat of the butt to be supported against the hip bone, and to be pressed so that the firelock may be felt against the left side, and that it may stand before the hollow of the shoulder, not leaning towards the head nor from it; the barrel almost perpendicular.

To be very exact in counting a second of time, or *one, two*, between each motion.

*Take care!*

At this word every man must be silent, stand firm, and not move hand nor foot, but attend carefully to the words of command.

I. *Poise your firelocks!* 2 motions.

*Explanation*—1. Seize the firelock with your right hand, and turn the lock outwards, keeping the firelock perpendicular.

2. Bring up the firelock with a quick motion from the shoulder, and seize it with the left hand just above the lock, so that the little finger may rest upon the spring, and the thumb lie upon the stock: The firelock must not be held too far from the body, and the left hand must be of an equal height with the eyes.

II. *Cock your firelocks!* 2 motions.

*Explanation*—1. Turn the barrel opposite to your face, and place your thumb upon the cock, raising the elbow square at this motion.

2. Cock your firelock, by drawing your elbow

elbow down, placing your thumb upon the breech-pin, and the fingers under the guard.

III. *Present!* 1 motion.

*Explanation*—Step back about six inches on the rear with the right foot, bringing the left toe to the front; at the same time the butt end of the firelock must be brought to an equal height with your shoulder, placing the left hand on the swell, and the fore finger of the right hand before the trigger, sinking the muzzle a little.

IV. *Fire!* 1 motion.

*Explanation*—Pull the trigger briskly, and immediately after bringing up the right foot, come to the priming position, with the lock opposite to the right breast, the muzzle the height of the hat, keeping it firm and steady, and at the same time seize the cock with the fore finger and thumb of the right hand, the back of the hand turned up.

V. *Half cock your firelocks!* 1 motion.

*Explanation*—Half bend the cock briskly with a draw back of the right elbow, bringing it close to the butt of the firelock.

VI. *Handle your cartridge!* 1 motion.

*Explanation*—Bring your right hand with a short round to your pouch, slapping it hard; seize the cartridge, and bring it with a quick motion to your mouth, bite the top well off, and bring the hand as low as the chin, with the elbow down.

VII.

VII. *Prime!* 1 motion.

*Explanation*—Shake the powder into the pan, placing the three last fingers behind the hammer, with the elbow up.

VIII. *Shut your pans!* 2 motions.

*Explanation*—1. Shut your pan briskly, drawing your right arm at this motion toward your body, holding the cartridge fast in your hand, as in the former position.

2. Turn the piece nimbly round to the loading position, with the lock to the front, and the muzzle the height of the chin, bringing the right hand behind the muzzle; both feet kept fast in this motion.

IX. *Charge with cartridge!* 2 motions.

*Explanation*—1. Turn your hand and put the cartridge into the muzzle, shaking the powder into the barrel.

2. Place your hand, closed, with a quick and strong motion, upon the rammer.

X. *Draw your rammers!* 2 motions.

*Explanation*—1. Draw the rammer with a quick motion half out, seizing it at the muzzle back-handed.

2. Draw it quite out, turn it, and enter it into the muzzle.

XI. *Ram down your cartridge!* 1 motion.

*Explanation*—Ram the cartridge well down the barrel, instantly recovering, and seizing the rammer back-handed at the centre, turning

ing it, and enter it as far as the lower joint, placing at the same time the edge of the hand on the butt end of the rammer, with fingers extended.

**XII. Raise your rammer! 1 motion.**

*Explanation.*—Return the rammer, bringing up the piece with the left hand on the shoulder, seizing it with the right hand under the lock, keeping the left hand fast at the swell, turning the body square to the front.

**XIII. Shoulder your firelock! 2 motions.**

*Explanation.*—1. Quit the left hand and place it strong upon the butt.

2. Quit the right hand and throw it down the right side.

**XIV. Roll your firelock! 2 motions.**

*Explanation.*—1. Seize the firelock with the right hand, turning the lock outwards.

2. Raise the firelock from your shoulder, and place your left hand with a quick motion above the lock, holding the piece right up and down in both hands before you, and your left hand even with your eyes.

3. Step briskly back with your right foot, placing it a hand's breadth distant from your left heel, at the same time bring down the firelock as quick as possible to the rest, sinking it as far down before your left knee, as your right hand will permit without constraint; your left hand at the feather spring,

and your right, with fingers extended, held under the guard, taking care to draw in the muzzle well towards your body, and to dress in a line with the butt end.

*XV. Order your firelocks! 3 motions.*

*Explanation*—1. Place your firelock nimbly with your left hand against your right shoulder.

2. Quit the firelock with the right hand, and sinking it at the same time with your left, seize it at the muzzle, which must be of an equal height with your chin, and hold it close against your right side.

3. Lift up your right foot and place it by your left; at the same time throw back your left hand by your left side, and with your right bring down the butt end strong upon the ground, placing it even with the toe of your right foot; the thumb of your right hand lying along the barrel, and the muzzle kept at a little distance from your body.

*XVI. Ground your firelocks! 4 motions.*

*Explanation*—1. Face to the right upon your heels, and at the same time turn the firelock so that the lock may point to the rear, and the flat of the butt end against the inside of your foot, at the same time slipping the right foot behind the butt of the firelock, the right toe pointing to the right, and the left to the front.

2. Step directly forward with your left foot about as far as the swell of the firelock, and lay it upon the ground, your left hand hanging down by your left foot, and your right kept fast with the butt end against it.

3. Raise yourself up again nimbly, bringing back your left foot to its former position, keeping your body faced to the right.

4. Face again to the left upon your heels, and come to your proper front, letting your hands hang down without motion.

**XVII. Take up your firelocks! 4 motions.**

*Explanation*—1. Face to the right upon both heels.

2. Sink your body down, and come to the position described in the second motion of grounding.

3. Raise yourself and firelock, bringing it close to your right side.

4. Come to your proper front, seizing the firelock at the muzzle, as in explanation fifteen.

**XVIII. Rest your firelocks! 3 motions.**

*Explanation*—1. Slip your right hand down the barrel as far as the swell.

2. Raise the firelock high up in a perpendicular line from the ground with your right hand, and seize it with the left above the spring, the cock the height of the waist belt.

3. Step back with your right foot, placing

it behind your left heel and come to the rest.

**XIX. Shoulder your firelocks! 2 motions.**

*Explanation*—1. Lift up your right foot and place it by your left; bring the firelock at the same time to your left shoulder, and seize the butt end with the left hand, keeping it in the same position as above described.

2. Throw your right hand briskly back.

**XX. Square your firelocks! 3 motions.**

*Explanation*—1. Bring the right hand briskly up, and place it under the cock, keeping the firelock steady in the same position.

2. Quit the butt with the left hand, and seize the firelock with it at the swell, bringing the elbow close down under the lock. The right hand kept fast in this motion, and the piece still upright.

3. Quit the right hand and bring it down your right side, bringing the firelock dimbly down to the secure, the left hand in a line with the waist belt.

**XXI. Shoulder your firelocks! 3 motions.**

*Explanation*—1. Bring the firelock up to a perpendicular line, seizing it with the right hand under the cock.

2. Quit the left hand and place it strong upon the butt.

3. Quit the right hand and place it smartly down the right side.

**XXII.**



## XXII. Fix your bayonet! 3 motions.

*Explanation*—1. and 2. motions as in the two first of the secure.

3. Quit the right hand, and bring the firelock smartly down to the left side with the left hand, as far as it will admit without constraint, seizing the bayonet at the same time with the right hand, and fixing it, placing the point just below the brass, with the piece kept close to the hollow of the shoulder.

## XXIII. Shoulder your firelock! 3 motions.

*Explanation*—1. Quit the right hand, and bring up the firelock with the left, seize it again under the cock with your right, as in the second motion of the secure.

2. Quit the left hand, and place it strong upon the butt.

3. Quit the right hand, and bring it down to the right side.

## XXIV. Present your arms! 3 motions.

As explained in three motions of the fourteenth word of command.

## XXV. To the right face! 3 motions.

*Explanation*—1. Bring up the firelock, with a quick motion high before you, 'till your left hand comes even with your eyes, with the fingers of that hand extended along the stock, just above the feather spring. The right foot to be brought close up to the left heel in this motion.

2. Face

2. Face to the right, taking care in facing to hold the firelock right up and down, and steady in your hands.

3. Step back with your right foot and come down to your present.

XXVI. *To the right face!* 3 motions.

As in the foregoing explanation.

XXVII. *To the right about face!* 3 motions.

As in the foregoing explanation, coming to the right about instead of to the right.

XXVIII. *To the left face!* 3 motions.

Explanation.—1. Bring the right foot briskly to the hollow of your left, with the firelock in the same position as in the first motion of facing to the right.

2. Face to the left.

3. Come down to your present.

XXIX. *To the left face!* 3 motions.

As before.

XXX. *To the left about face!* 3 motions.

As before, coming to the left about, instead of to the left.

XXXI. *Shoulder your firelocks!* 2 motions.

As in the two motions of explanation nineteen.

XXXII. *Charge your bayonets!* 2 motions.

1. As in explanation one.

2. Bring the swell of the firelock down strong upon the palm of the hand, turning upon both heels to the right, the right hand grasping

grasping the piece at the swell behind the lock, and as high as the waist belt: the firelock upon a level with the barrel upwards.

**XXXIII. Shoulder your firelocks! 3 motions.**

*Explanation*—1. Bring up the firelock to the shoulder, place the left hand upon the butt, bringing the feet square to the front.

2. Quit the right hand, and throw it down the right side.

**XXXIV. Advance your arms! 4 motions.**

1. and 2. As in explanation one.

3. Bring the firelock down the right side with the right hand, as low as it will admit without constraint, slipping up the left hand at the same time to the swell, the guard between the thumb and fore finger of the right hand, the three last fingers under the cock, with the barrel to the rear.

4. Quit the left hand.

**XXXV. Shoulder your firelocks! 4 motions.**

*Explanation*—1. Bring up the left hand and seize it at the swell.

2. Come smartly up to a poise.

3. and 4. Shoulder.

When this is finished, every thing must be restored to its former state by the following words of command:

*Officers! Take care!*

*Take your post in the front of the battalion!*

The officers and serjeants recover their arms.

arms, the ensigns advance their colours, the serjeants face to the right and left outwards.

*March!*

The officers advance to the front through the files or between the platoons, and halt at four paces before the front rank; the serjeants march round the flanks, and when come to their proper places in the rear, stand fast. The drummers and fifers return to their former posts.

*Halt!*

The serjeants face to the rear of the battalion. They and the officers advance their arms.

*Files that doubled to the left! At ye war!*

*March!*

The files that doubled take a large step to the left to get opposite to the intervals through which they march to their former stations. When the exercising officer sees they are all got into their places,

*Halt!*

The

When the battalion is formed, the drummers and fifers are to be divided on the right and left, and in the centre behind the colours, except the grenadier and light-infantry drummers and fifers, who always remain with their companies, as also their serjeants on their flanks. It is to be observed, that the officers and serjeants step off together, and keep the step with each other regularly, the officers marching slowly, the serjeants more briskly, as they have a large round to take.

The files that doubled dress with those that

After the manual the battalion generally marches by grand or subdivisions: This depends on the pleasure of the commanding officer, who may either order it or proceed to the firing.

On field days the colonel or commanding officer stands in the front of the battalion, now the exercising officer, generally without his arms, to give him such directions as he may think necessary; but at reviews he stands with his arms in his hand, near the reviewing general, to answer such questions as may be put to him, or receive directions.

#### CHAP. IV.

*Of marching by grand or subdivisions, or by companies, particularly at reviews.*

*Rear ranks! Close to the front!—March!*

THE centre and rear ranks march till there remains no more distance between

D

the

\* I have in the manual, and shall on all other occasions, given a caution to the officers and men what they are next to perform: This is very proper on a field-day, but should never be practised at a review. If the commanding officer chooses to have the march performed by beat of drum, a rattle, perspective or roll on the drum, is a warning to the battalion to be attentive; a flank or double flank directs the motion to be performed.

the ranks than what is necessary to give the men room to step without treading on the heels of those before them.

*To the right, about by subdivisions!—March!*

When the subdivisions have wheeled, they march a little way, then wheel to the left, and march so far that the next wheel will enable them to march by the general, or commanding officer, with their right about two or three paces from him; they then wheel and open their ranks, the front rank marching four paces before the centre steps off, and the centre the same before the rear rank steps off. Each subdivision must observe the same; the officers, who are to be at the head of their respective subdivisions, must salute the general with their fusils as they pass by him. When the first division has passed by the general so far that it is arrived opposite the place where the left of the battalion stood, it must wheel to the left, and march till it arrives at the ground where the battalion was drawn up, wheel again to the left, and march along the rear of said ground, till it arrives at such a distance as on the next wheel to occupy the ground it marched from. The other subdivisions must do the same, till the battalion is again squared. Great care must be taken to march very close, particularly the first division, otherwise the rear divisions will be

obliged

obliged to run or leave very large intervals between them, back of which are carefully to be avoided, as they have a very bad appearance.

Sometimes the battalion marches before the general by companies, that being for the strength and condition of each; but when the companies are equal in numbers, this is unnecessary, they being really subdivisions. Among the king's troops, if the ranks are too unequal, it is customary to square them, that is, to take so many men from the strong companies as may be necessary to make the weak equal to them, which is absolutely requisite; but each company being obliged to furnish an equal number of men on all occasions, if they were not squared, some companies would undergo great hardships, while others are improperly indulged.

Before I dismiss this subject, it will not be amiss to give some directions how a retreating general is to be received. One or more sentinels should be placed at some distance from the battalion, on the road the general is expected, who are to give notice the minute they perceive him coming. If the battalion has its arms ordered, the major is to order them to shoulder. When the general comes at about eighty or ninety paces from the right of the battalion, the major (who should be on horse

back, as also the adjutant) must order the men to present their arms, then take his post to the right of the battalion, between it and the grenadier company, and the adjutant on the left, each with their swords drawn, with which they are to salute. As the general passes along the line, he is to be saluted by the officers; when he has passed the centre, the major must ride to his post of exercise; and when the general arrives to the left flank, the major must order the battalion to face to the left, the men are to receive, face to the left, and present their arms. This is to be repeated when the general gets to the rear, right and front of the battalion. When the general has taken his post for reviewing, the major is to order the battalion to shoulder. The captains with the colours never salute any but the king, his immediate representative, as the lord-lieutenant in Ireland, or the commander in chief of an army. In America I apprehend this compliment ought to be paid to the governing powers.

## CHAP.

\* There is a method of wheeling practised among the regulars, only when a battalion, or large body, is to perform the manoeuvre, which is wheeling on the centre. This, I believe, might be advantageously practised by smaller bodies, as low down as subdivisions, platoons being too small to admit or require it. My reasons for preferring this method is, that the wheeling line, being but half



*Of firing by platoons, sub or grand-divisions, or by wings: standing, advancing and retreating, &c.*

*Grenadiers! (if none, light-infantry) To the left cover the flanks of the battalion!*

THE company faces to the left.

*March!*

The company files, the right hand division, when it has arrived to a distance from the right of the battalion equal to its own front, stops; the left-hand division continues to march to the left of the battalion, the officer marching between the officers and front rank, and the men between and in the rear of the ranks, till it has got with its right to a distance equal

all the length; this evolution is performed with more regularity than if the line was longer, and in half the time. The words of command might be the same as in the usual method, but direct more as

*Take care to wheel to the right by subdivisions!*

On this caution the right-hand platoon of each subdivision should go to the right about.

*March!*

Each platoon should wheel to the right.

*Halt!*

The left-hand platoons halt, and the right come to the right about and dress.

If the wheeling is to be, the left-hand platoons should go to the right about. A little practice would make this method as easy to the officers and men as the old.

*Platoons, fig. 1.*

equal to its own front from the left of the battalion.

*Halt!*

The company faces to the right, and dresses with the battalion.

*Rear ranks! Close to half distance!*

The officers go to the right about.

*March!*

The rear ranks close to the front so as to leave only a moderate step between them; the officers who are to command platoons, &c. fall into the intervals; those that are to be in the rear passing through the intervals and forming places in the rear; the lieutenant-colonel, if not commanding officer, three paces in the rear of the officers. The officers who command platoons, and have fallen into the intervals, face to the centre, that is, those on the right to the left, and those on the left to the right.

*Halt!*

The officers commanding platoons, &c. face to their proper front, those in the rear to the right about. The serjeants are then to acquaint the officers commanding platoons, &c. what is their proper place in the line.

It is usual, and also very necessary, to have, if possible, some officers in the rear of the battalion, who are to be a check on the men, prevent their

their falling into confusion, and lead the battalion when a retreat becomes necessary. These officers should be of different ranks, that some of them may be men of experience. The Prussians, those patterns of discipline, who have demonstrated what surprising and unexpected feats well regulated and disciplined troops may perform, look on this as so essential, that they never have less than three in the rear of each battalion, tho' they should be necessitated to entrust the command of platoons to sergeants. The regiments in the English service, having but few officers, seldom have many in the rear: But the case is different here, the city battalions having forty battalion-officers, and the continental battalions twenty-four, only sixteen of which are necessary to command platoons. The second and fourth captains should be in the rear of the centre of each wing, the subalterns divided on the wings from right to left. *Fig. 1.* shews how the officers of the city battalions might be divided, and *fig. 2.* those of the continental troops.

By the king's order in 1764 it is directed, that during the firings the colonel should be advanced before the ranks, and the lieutenant-colonel

\* It would not be amiss if, on field-days, this order was altered each day, that every officer may have an opportunity of learning his business at the head of a platoon or in the rear.

colonel in the front rank of the reserve. This may do at reviews, but not on service, because such an advanced situation would expose the colonel to be particularly fired at, and in case of a charge with bayonets, he must retire into the front rank of the reserve, which will much croud it; besides, I conceive some officers of the experience and authority the lieutenant-colonel may be supposed to have, will be of great service in the rear, particularly in a retreat, which often requires great care and attention when the battalion is hard pressed.

*Fix your bayonets! — Shoulder!*

*Prime and load!*

Thus far the major is to give the word of command: The firings are to be directed by the colonel by signals with the drum.

Before I proceed to the firings, I beg leave to correct an error which most regiments I have seen, fall into, and which the officers do not take proper care to prevent. It is generally imagined, that if a regiment fires fast, and each platoon without any straggling fire, it fires well, which is a great mistake; the hurry prevents the men from ramming their muskets as they ought, which greatly weakens the force of the shot, and levelling properly, some pieces being too much elevated, and others too much depressed, which occasions

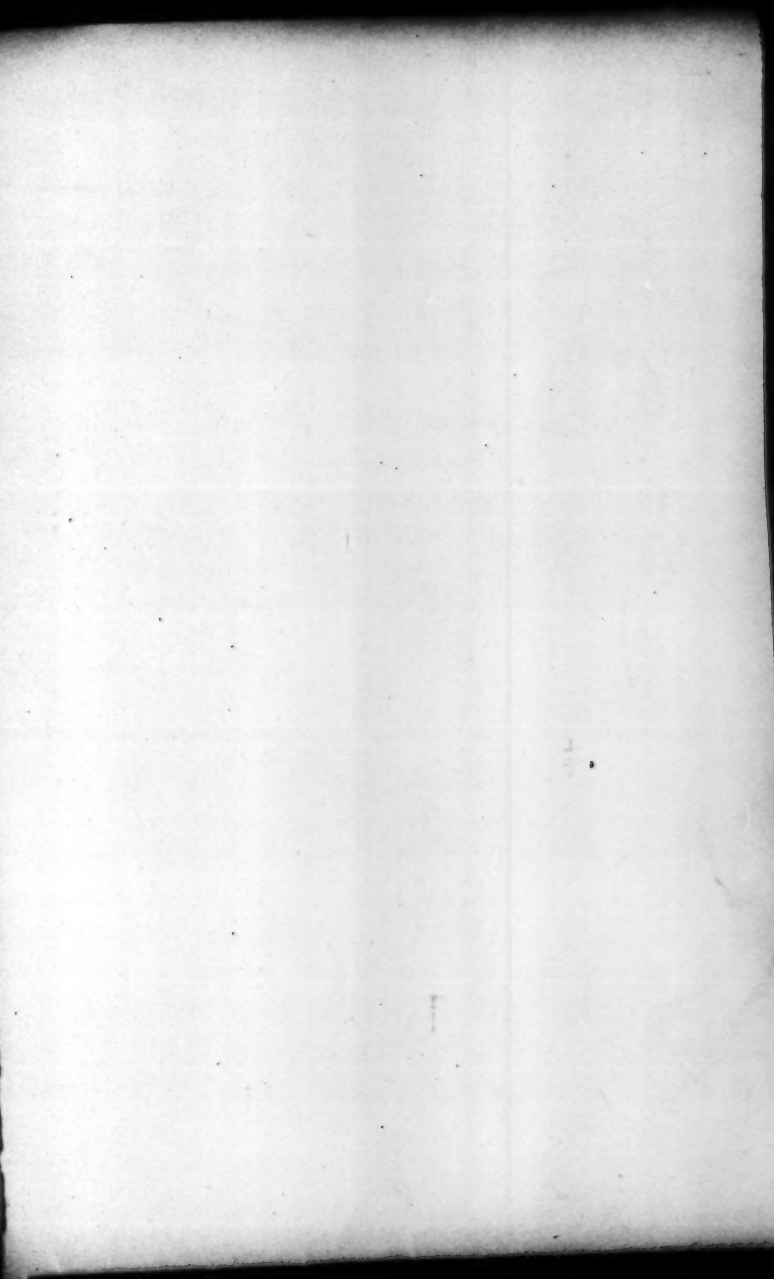
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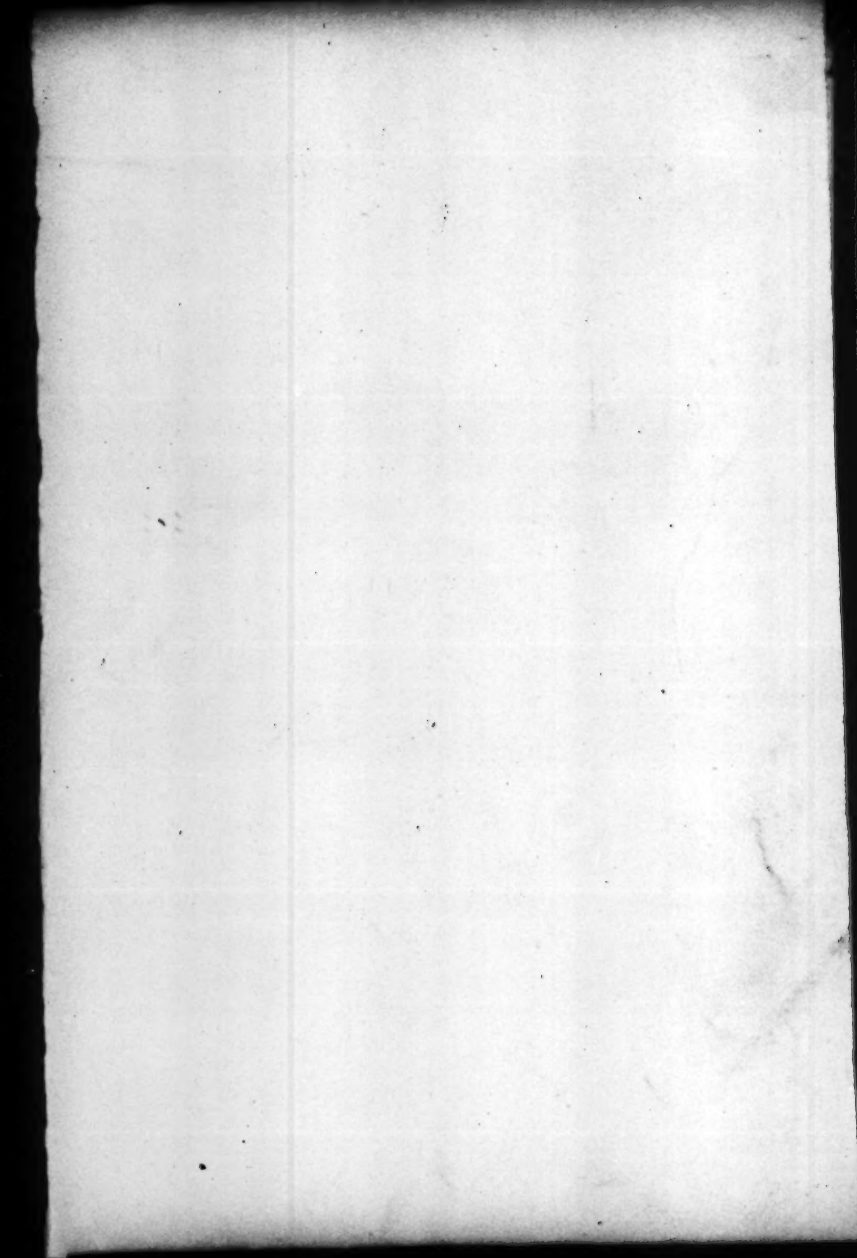


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great waste of ammunition, and little execution. The correcting this error depends greatly on the officers commanding the platoons, who should not give the word *fire* till they see their men are well levelled. Two fires leisurely and properly given, will do more execution than three in the usual way. There is another error soldiers are apt to fall into, owing to their military education. A piece of ground, as level as possible, being generally chosen for field-days and reviews, by which men are accustomed to conceive they level well if their barrels are in an horizontal position; but as few fields of battle consist entirely of such ground, a regiment may fire over the heads of its antagonists, if the latter are in a hollow, and the contrary if on a rising ground. To obviate this, regiments should be exercised on variety of grounds.

To make the firings more easily understood, in *plate A. fig. 3.* is a regiment told off in platoons, sub and grand-divisions, &c. ready to fire; the figures above the diagonal lines shew the time at which each platoon is to fire, those below the lines the number of the firings, as first, second or third firing. This scheme is different from that directed by the duke of Cumberland, when captain general; but I have preferred it as being more simple, and as likely to answer the end proposed.

PLATOON-FIRING *standing.**Preparative.*

The whole make ready, and stand recovered, having the fore finger on the trigger and the thumb on the cock.

If the regiment is drawn up three deep, the front rank kneel on their right knees, and fix the butts of their muskets on the ground; the second rank steps forward to fire over the heads of the front rank; the third rank also steps forward, but inclines a little to the right, to fire between the men of the second rank. If it is only two deep, the men of the rear rank step forward, inclining a little to the right, in order to fire between the men of the front rank.

*Present!* (by the officer commanding the platoon.)

The men level.

*Fire!*

The men fire, and immediately recover their arms; and the centre and rear ranks fall back to their proper places; and the platoon proceeds to prime and load.

*As*

\* I believe the best method of loading is as follows: The men, having half cocked, face to the right, and bring their pieces down to a level, and prime; then grasping the cartridge with the fore finger, and covering the

As soon as the first platoon of the first firing has fired, the second platoon of the same firing fires, and is followed by the third, fourth, fifth and sixth; as soon as this has fired, the first of the second begins, and is followed by all the platoons of that firing; when the first of the third begins, and continues to its sixth platoon; when this has fired, the first of the first begins again, and is followed by the rest. Thus an uninterrupted fire is kept up till the drum beats the first part of the general, which is to be the signal on all occasions for stopping the firing, and shouldering.

*To fire advancing.*

*A march beat.*

The whole stop off together, and march.

*Preparative.*

The platoons of the first firing make ready; the first and second march out briskly three

E 2

paces.

the opening thereof with the thumb, they shut their pans with their three other fingers; then with a gentle jerk on the butt they reverie the firelock, bringing it to an inclined position, with the butt to the front, and the muzzle to the rear, proceed to load, shoulder and face to their proper front. The advantage of this position is, that while the men are loading, they present only their sides to the enemy, which being in most men narrower than their front, the chance of their being hit by any shot fired at that time is so much lessened.

paces. The first is fired by its proper officer, and is followed by the other five, the third marching out when the word present is given to the first, the fourth when the word is given to the second, and so on, 'till the eighteen platoons have fired, when the first begins again, and the firing continues 'till the signal for ceasing is given. By the time each platoon has fired, it is to be supposed the battalion, which must not halt, is come up and received it into its proper place. The officers must be particularly attentive to preserve the proper intervals, otherwise the platoons will not find room when the battalion comes up,

*To fire retreating.*

*Retreat!*

The battalion goes to the right about and retreats.

*Preparative.*

The platoons of the first firing make ready; the first and second come to the right about; the first fires, goes to the right about, regains its interval and loads; then the second does the same. When the word present is given by the first, the third comes to the right about, and the following platoons observe the same method: And the fire is in this manner continued through the whole, and repeated 'till stopped

stopped by the commanding officer. When the drum ceases the battalion halts.

*Preparative.---Flam.*

The regiment comes to the right about to its proper front.

## FIRING *by* SUBDIVISIONS.

*To fire standing.*

*Preparative.*

The first firing makes ready.

*Flam.*

The rear rank or ranks place themselves in their situations proper for firing.

*Present!* (by the officer commanding the subdivision.)

The first subdivision presents.

*Fire!*

The first fires, &c.

The firings of the subdivisions are as follow:

First firing. First, eighth, second and seventh.

Second firing. Third, sixth, fourth, fifth.

Third firing. First and second divisions of grenadiers or light-infantry.

*First*

\* This is contrary to the military practice at reviews, when the battalion is divided into two firings, and after the second round the two grenadier divisions are fired together by the commanding officer; but in the hurry of a battle this is very difficult, if at all practicable, as the commanding officer must advance a considerable distance

in

*First part of the general.*

The firing ceases, and the men shoulder  
B. fig. 1.

*To fire advancing.---To fire retreating.*

These are to be performed in the same manner as platoons, with the same alteration as are mentioned in subdivision firing-standing: Therefore a repetition of those directions is unnecessary.

## FIRING by GRAND-DIVISION

*Standing.*

*Preparative.*

The whole makes ready; and the grand divisions are fired by the officers that command them, in the following order: First, third, second, fourth. Grenadiers or light infantry on the right and left, to be repeated till the signal is given to cease firing.

*Advancing.*

In the front, to be seen by the grenadiers on the flank both of which would probably be obstructed by the hum and smoke; For which reason I have also ordered first each firing together by the commanding officer, though practised by the English troops on field-days and reviews. Another objection I have to firing the grenadiers together by the commanding officer is, that as it is not done till after the second round, half their fire is lost. The officer should take a little more time between the subdivision firing than when by platoons; because the former being done in half the time, too large a part of the regiment would be unloaded at the same time.

*Advancing.—Retreating.*

The directions for firing by platoons will suffice for firing by grand-divisions, the officers taking care not to fire too fast, but allow the first time to load before the second fire.

**FIRING by WINGS.***Preparative.*

The whole makes ready, and each wing and division of light-infantry or grenadiers ordered by its proper officer.

**FIRING by RANKS.***Preparative.*

The whole recovers; the rear rank, or ranks, if three, advance to close order; the front rank kneels, and the men drop the muzzles of their firelocks, as do the centre rank.

*Rear rank! Present!—Fire!*

These words of command are given by the commanding officer. As soon as this rank is fired, it falls back and loads.

*Centre rank! Present!—Fire!*

This, when fired, falls back and loads.

*Front rank! Present!—Fire!*

This, when fired, rises up and loads.

**FIRINGS**

This is contrary to the usual practice, which is to begin

FIRINGS *to the REAR.*

They may become necessary when the enemy has found means to get into the rear of the army, by which the regiments of the second line, or reserve, may be obliged to change their front. There are several methods of performing this. Two of those, practised by the Prussians, viz. by filing and wheeling, will be found among the evolutions, and in *plate C fig. 1. and 2.* that those who incline to follow them, may know how they are to be performed. The reason given for this manœuvre is, that the best men being in the front rank they are the fittest to sustain an attack; but this I cannot look on as conclusive, bravery not being always annexed to stature; nor can it be doubted that the rear rank may, and generally does, consist of men of as much resolution as the front. Besides, this requires time; which the enemy may not always allow. Therefore I believe facing to the right about, and the officers commanding platoons moving from

begin with the front rank; but the following inconvenience attends this method. If the front rank fires first it must rise to load, and the two rear ranks cannot fire till it has done and kneels again; but by beginning with the rear rank, that has time to load while the others are firing. It is often best not to fire the front rank, but keep it for a reserve, lest the enemy should attack when the whole front is unfurnished of fire.



from the front to the rear rank, now become the front, would answer the purpose full as well, be performed in less time, and not expose the corps to fall into confusion by making such a motion in the face of an enemy. It is true, that by the method I propose the order of the platoons in firing is reversed, the right-hand wing becoming the left; but this, I apprehend, is of little consequence, being very immaterial whether the firing begins from the right or left; neither in the hurry of an action can this regularity be always attended to, but each platoon or subdivision will be apt to fire as fast as it can, independant of the rest.

## OBLIQUE FIRING.

This, tho' not often necessary, may sometimes become requisite, in order to usefully employ the whole fire of the battalion. Suppose it attacked by a column or body of horse, whose front is not equal to that of the regiment, if only the direct fire is used, part of it must be needlessly reserved or thrown away. To prevent which, every file that outflanks the body attacking, should face to the right or left, according to its position, the degree of facing must be proportioned to the distance from the front attacked, in order to bear on the attacking body. The same service may be performed by wheeling the parts not attacked one

eighth or one quarter of a circle; but this method is attended with the following inconvenience. That, as it has been found, by repeated experience, very difficult to bring men to fire to their right or left; they always inclining to do it directly to their front, the degree of wheeling must be varied every minute, as the attacking body approaches, till it comes to very near a quarter of a circle, by which the flanks may be exposed, but in oblique firing every man will, of his own accord, be apt to vary the degree of his facing, as necessity requires. Possibly a method compounded of the two might be found best, wheeling to a certain degree, and then firing directly or obliquely, as occasion may require. See B. fig. 2.

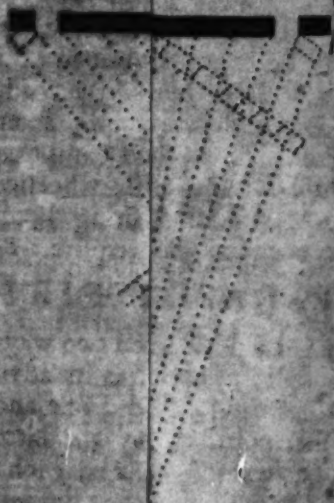
## OF PARAPET FIRING.

This may be performed two ways, with the files open or close; each has its advantage. By the first the firings succeed one another without any interruption, by the latter they are slower, but heavier, that is, each platoon or subdivision fires double the number of men at one time, but requires much longer time between each firing: For which reason I prefer the former.

### *To fire with open files.*

The files may be opened two ways, by doubling

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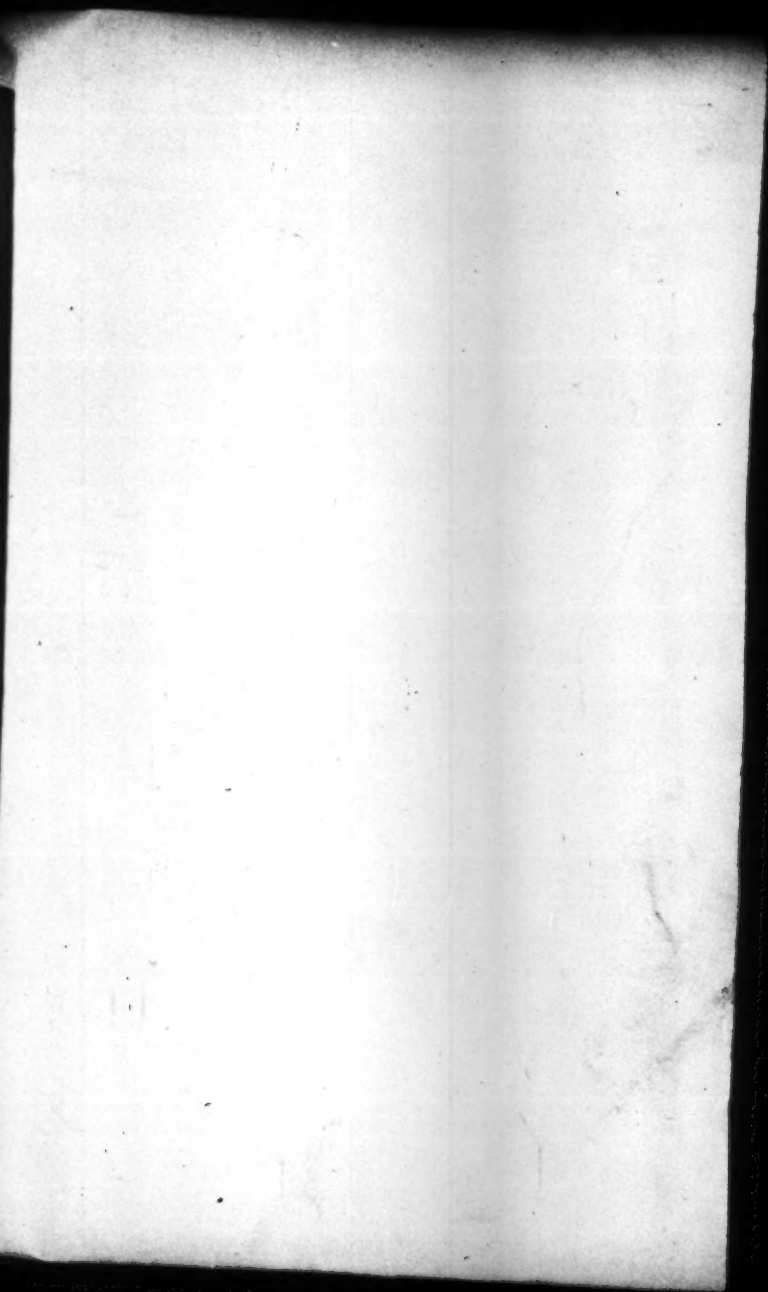
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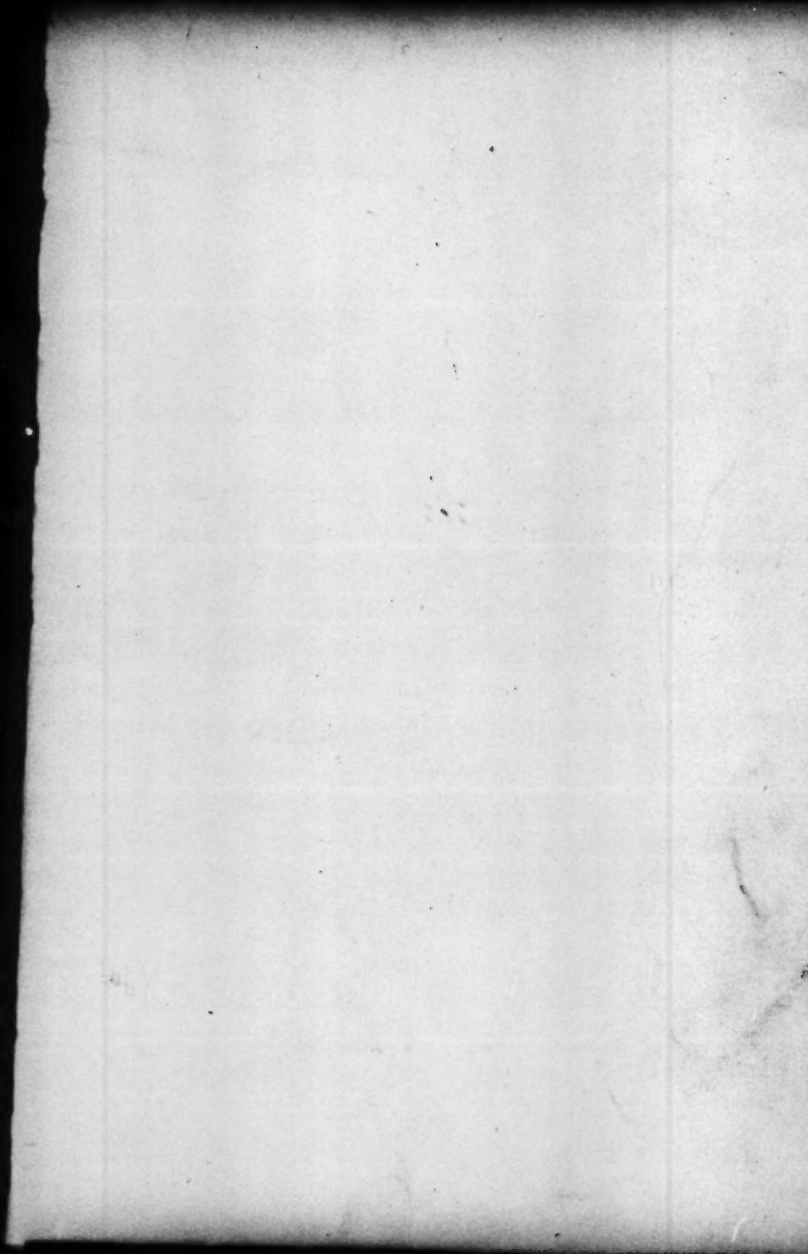
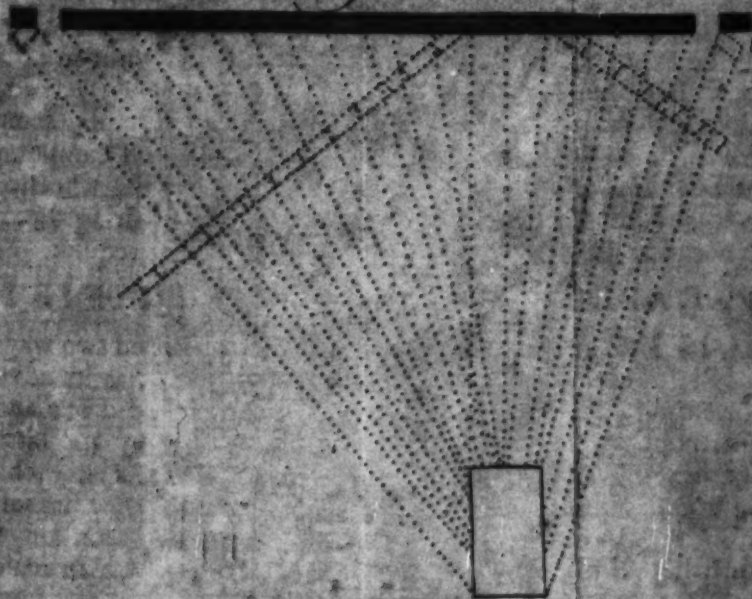


Fig. 1.

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th

Fig. 2.







doubling them or by facing from the centre to the right and left outwards, and filing 'till there is a space between each file for a man to pass. Which of these methods is to be followed must depend on circumstances, such as the length of parapet a battalion or any certain number of men has to defend, but principally by the manner in which the battalion is drawn up, whether in two or three ranks; if the former, doubling the files is best; if the latter, opening them, because, if only two deep, the front cannot be loaded by the time the rear has fired, but it may in the time requisite for two ranks to fire.

If the files are to be doubled, the words of command are

*Left-hand files! Take care to double to the right!*

Every second or left-hand file faces to the right.

*March!*

If the ranks are open, the men that faced step into the intervals between the ranks, but if closed, they march into the rear 'till they have got to a proper distance.

*Halt!*

The men that doubled come to their proper front and cover their file leaders.

If the files are to be opened

*Take care to open your files to the right and left from the centre!*

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The officers and men face to the right and left outwards.

*March!*

The right and left-hand files march two steps, and is then followed by the second, and thus in like manner by the third, each file stepping off at the second step of the preceding file. When the commanding officer sees that the whole is properly opened

*Halt!*

The officers and men face to the front.

*Preparative.*

The front rank recovers.

*Flam.*

The whole marches; the front rank steps on the banquet, if any, and is fired by the officers commanding the platoons or subdivisions: As soon as the men have fired, they recover and go to the right about, which brings them opposite the intervals through which they march to the rear, load, and march forward. The officer who commands the platoon or subdivision does not go to the rear, but continues in the front to fire the ranks as they advance, the supernumerary officers and serjeants taking care of the men that go to the rear. When the word *Present* is given to the front rank, the second recovers. Thus the firing is continued till the enemy retires or beats off the defendants.

*To fire with close files.*

The foregoing directions will in a great measure serve here, the only difference between the two methods being the manner in which the ranks are to go to the rear, which is by facing to the right and left outwards, and filing through the intervals between the platoons or subdivisions.

When the firing ceases, if the files were opened either by doubling or filing to the right and left, the battalion is again reduced to its former state by the following signals:

*Preparative.---Flam.*

If the files were doubled, those that doubled step with their left feet obliquely to the left, and march through the intervals; if the files opened, they face to the right and left inwards, at the preparative, and march at the flam.

*Flam.*

The whole faces to its proper front.

**STREET-FIRINGS** *advancing.*

*Platoons! (or subdivisions) Take care to wheel to the right! ---March! See plate C. fig. 1.*

The

\* The manner in which the battalion is to wheel, whether by platoons, sub or grand-divisions, must depend on the wideness of the street or road; the front should always be as large as possible, leaving a sufficient space on each flank for the platoons that have fired to file to the rear.

The platoons, &c. wheel either on the centre or with one front, if on the centre when the word

*Half*

is given, the half that went to the right about come to the right about to their proper front.

*Drummer beats a march.*

The whole step off together, and march.

*Preparative.*

The leading division recovers.

*Flam.*

It first, wheels from the centre to the right and left outwards, and when in a line with the flanks of the regiment, the divisions face to the right and left, and file down the flank, 'till they come to the rear of the battalion, when the officer that commands them orders them to wheel inwards, which they are to do by files, the leading file of each division wheeling half a circle, the next file wheels round the leading file, 'till it comes to its proper place on the right or left of the leading file, and is followed by the other files, 'till the whole division is properly formed, when it loads and marches. When the word *Present* is given to the first division, the second recovers, and marches beyond the ground of the first before it fires, so as to gain ground every firing.

After the signal is given to begin the firing, the

the drummer is to beat a march without ceasing, till ordered to the contrary.

The regimental colours or standard must wheel after every division that files along the flanks, and form in the rear of the division at the head of which it was before, by which means it will always be in the centre of the battalion. The colours that carry the grand-division colours should also wheel in such a manner as always to keep in the centre of their respective grand-divisions.

### *Retreating.*

*The drummer beats a retreat.*

The whole battalion halts, and the firings are conducted as before directed, by which means the battalion retreats, or rather looses ground, as each division fires.

*Take care to form the battalion!*

*To the left wheel, and form the battalion! — March!*

The platoons, &c. wheel to the left, and dress.

## OF FIRING A VOLLEY.

This may be done on two occasions, in the day of battle, immediately before charging with bayonets, and for a *feu-de-joy* on some occasion of rejoicing.

*To fire a volley and charge with bayonets.*

*Preparative.*

The

The whole makes ready; the front rank kneels, the others lock.

*Flam.*

The whole present.

*Flam.*

The whole fires and recovers; the front rank rises up briskly; the whole level their bayonets to charge; which they must do briskly, and closely follow their smoke, in case the wind serves them, by blowing it in the face of the enemy. In case they have the good fortune to break their opponents, the officers should be careful not to let their men pursue the fugitives too eagerly, lest by breaking their own ranks they become a prey to some fresh body of the enemy.

*Preparative.*

The whole halts, dresses and recovers.

*Flam.*

The regiment half cocks, primes and loads.

*Flam.*

The whole shoulders.

*If the firing is for a feu-de-joy.*

*Preparative.*

The whole recovers; the front rank does not kneel, or the others lock.

*Flam.*

The whole present, with their muzzles in the air, the centre and rear elevating them above the heads of the men before them.

*Flam.*

*Flam.*

The whole fires, recovers, primes and loads, as this firing is always twice repeated. After the third volley the men stand recovered.

*Flam.*

They half cock.

*Flam.*

They shut their pans.

*Flam.*

They shoulder.

This is the most usual method with the British troops; but among foreigners, and sometimes by our regiments, when on foreign service, and mixed with other troops, the *feu-de-joy* is by a running fire in the following manner:

*Preparative.*

The battalion recovers and cocks.

*Flam.*

The whole presents.

*Flam.*

The right and left hand files fire, and are followed by the next files, these by the third, &c. till the firing reaches the centre, when the flanking files begin again, and continue till three rounds are fired, when the firing ceases, and the men stand recovered.

*Flam.*

They half cock.

*G**Flam.*

*Flam.*

They shut their pans.

*Flam.*

They shoulder.

If the troops are in a fortified town, the *feu-de-joy* is always performed on the ramparts, the men facing the parapet.

I have directed these firings by signals, but the commanding officer may do it by word of command, if he chooses so to do. Having now gone through all the firings that are usually practised, I shall proceed to the evolutions.

## CHAP. VI.

### *Of wheeling on the centre.*

*Take care to wheel on the centre!*

**T**HE right division of grenadiers, or light-infantry, and right wing of the battalion, go to the right about.

*To the right wheel on the centre!—March!*

Each wing, &c. wheels to its right a quarter of a circle.

*Halt!*

The left wing, &c. halts, the right comes to the right about, and the whole dress.

*Take care to wheel to the left on the centre!*

The left wing, &c. goes to the right about.

*To the left wheel on the centre!—March!*

Each wing wheels a quarter of a circle.

*Halt!*



*Halt!*

The right wing halts, the left comes to the right about, and dresses.

*Wings! Take care to wheel to the right on the centre!*

*To the right wheel on the centre!—March!*

*Halt!*

*Wings! Wheel to the left on the centre!—March!*

*Halt!*

*Grand-divisions! Take care to wheel to the right on the centre!*

*To the right wheel on the centre!—March!*

*Halt!*

*To the left wheel on the centre!—March!*

*Halt!*

I have omitted giving any directions for the two last evolutions, as those before given are sufficient in all cases, observing this general rule, That, when the wheel is to the right, the right-hand half is to go to the right about, and the left when to the left.

In wheeling, great care should be taken to keep the ranks as straight as possible, for which purpose the centre man, on whom the wheeling is performed, should only turn slowly, the next wheel a very little faster, and each, as he is more distant from the centre, move proportionably quicker. Every man should, with his elbow, feel his neighbour on the side on which he wheels, casting his eyes

the contrary way, that he may not move too fast for those who have a larger space to go over. If every man is attentive to feel his neighbour without crowding on him, the whole line would never take up more or less ground than it occupied when it set off.

# CHAP. VII.

*To change the front of the battalion.*

**T**HIS may be done by filing or wheeling. First by filing.

*Take care to change front of the battalion by filing!*  
*Pass to the left!*

The whole faces to the left.

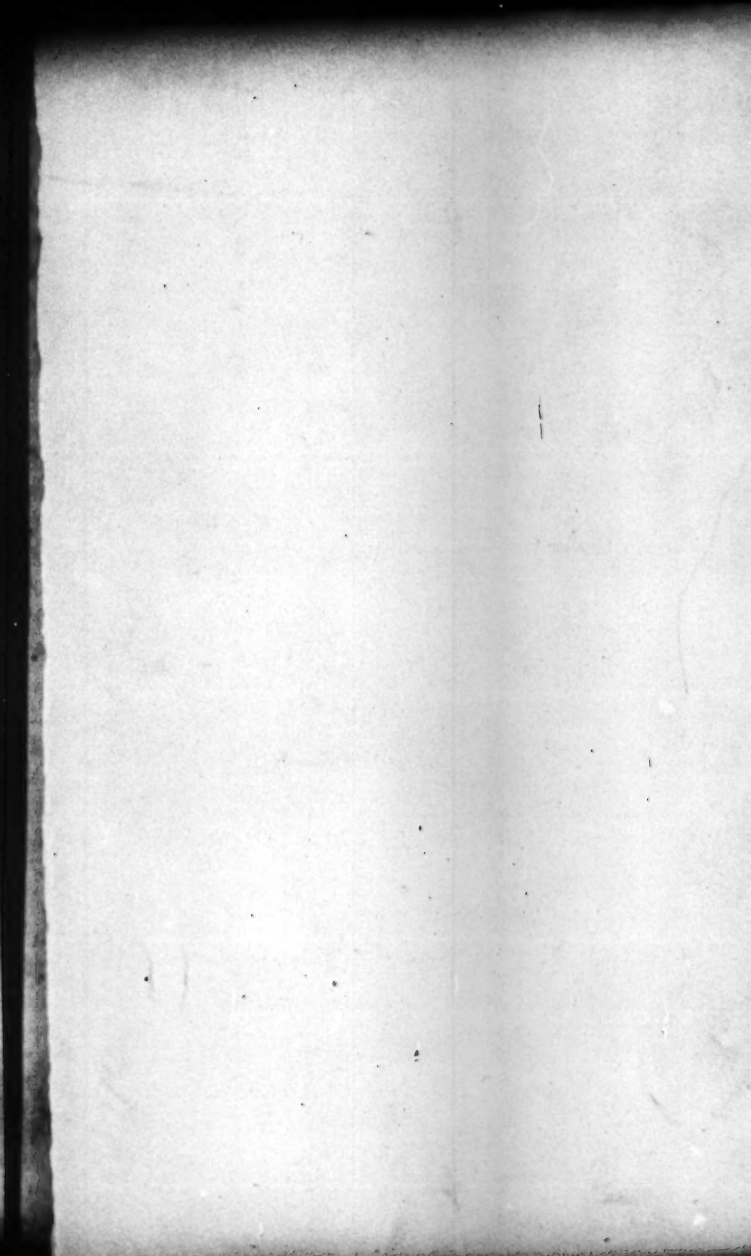
*March and wheel by files!*

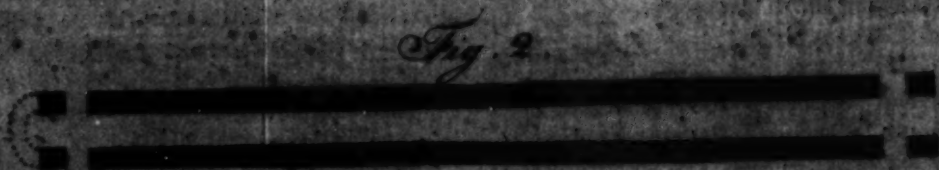
The left file of the left division of grenadiers or light-infantry wheels to the left half a circle, and marches along the rear of the battalion, 'till it gets to the rear of the ground on which the right division stood. As soon as the first has wheeled round, the second marches to the ground from which the first wheeled, and wheels, and is followed in the same manner by every other file, 'till the right-hand file of the right division of grenadiers or light-infantry has wheeled.

*Halt!*

The whole faces to the right, and dresses.  
*See plate C. fig. 2.*

Secondly.









Secondly: By platoons or subdivisions. *Take care to change the front of the battalion by wheeling to the left by subdivisions!*

*To the left wheel! March!*  
The left division of grenadiers, or infantry, wheels half a circle to the left, and marches in the rear; the other battalion, &c. divisions march in succession to the ground this one has quitted, and wheel in the same manner, then

*Halt!*  
The whole faces to the right, and dressen. *See plate C. fig. 3.*

If thought necessary to bring the battalion to its former front, the foregoing directions must be reversed.

## CHAP. VIII.

### FORMING the SQUARE.

**T**HIS is best done by grand-divisions. *Take care to form the square by grand-divisions!*

*Grand-divisions! Form the square!*

The first grand-division and grenadiers on the right face to the left; the left wing and grenadiers face to the right.

*March!*

The second grand-division moves slowly forward. As soon as the rear rank has cleared the front line, the reserve and regimental colours,

lours, or standard, moves with the side step till it gets in the rear of the centre of the second grand-division. The first grand-division wheels to the right by files, and marches in the rear of the flank files of the second, to form the right face. The third grand-division wheels by files, till its leading files cover the left flank of the second, and forms the left face. The fourth or left grand-division files along the line to form the rear face. Each division of grenadiers subdivides and covers the angles of the square. The field and staff officers, drummers and fifers, get into the square.

*Face square!*

The right, left and rear faces go to the right about, and face outwards.

*To march the square.*

*Take care to march the square to the front!*

The right face faces to the left, the left face to the right, and the rear goes to the right about.

*March!*

The whole marches till the drum ceases, when the square halts, each face faces outwards. In the same manner the square may march by any of its faces. The regimental colours, or standard, drummers and fifers must always fall in the rear of the face that leads.



*To fire the square.*

*Preparative.*

The grenadiers make ready, and fire by word of command from their respective officers, in the following order: That on the right of the front face on the right of the rear face, on the right of the right face, and on the right of the left face. Each platoon, as soon as it has fired, recovers and goes to the right about; also the left-hand platoon of each face recovers and wheels out about an eighth of a circle to make room for the grenadiers to march into the square, the platoon that wheeled falls back and shoulders, and the grenadiers load.

*Preparative.*

The right-hand platoon of each face makes ready, and is fired by its proper officer in the following order: Front, rear, right and left faces. The left-hand platoons make the second fire, and are followed by the other two platoons of each face. When the whole has fired, the left-hand platoons wheel out, as before directed, and let out the grenadiers. This is the usual method on field-days and at reviews; but such regularity cannot well be observed in the hurry of an action, but the officers of each face regard chiefly their own firings; and this may occasionally become necessary,

cessary, as, when the square arrives at some place where one or more of its faces are secured from an attack by the nature of the ground. Should any face so circumstanced fire, it would needlessly expend its ammunition.

*To reduce the square.*

*Take care to reduce the square!*

*From the square form the battalion! — March!*

The reducing of the square being the reverse of forming it, each face must face on wheel contrary to what it did before; consequently any further directions are unnecessary.

*See plate D. fig. 1.*

## CHAP. IX.

### Of forming the OBLONG SQUARE.

*Take care to form the oblong square!*

*Form the oblong square!*

**T**HE subdivisions on the right of the fourth face to the left, those on the left face to the right.

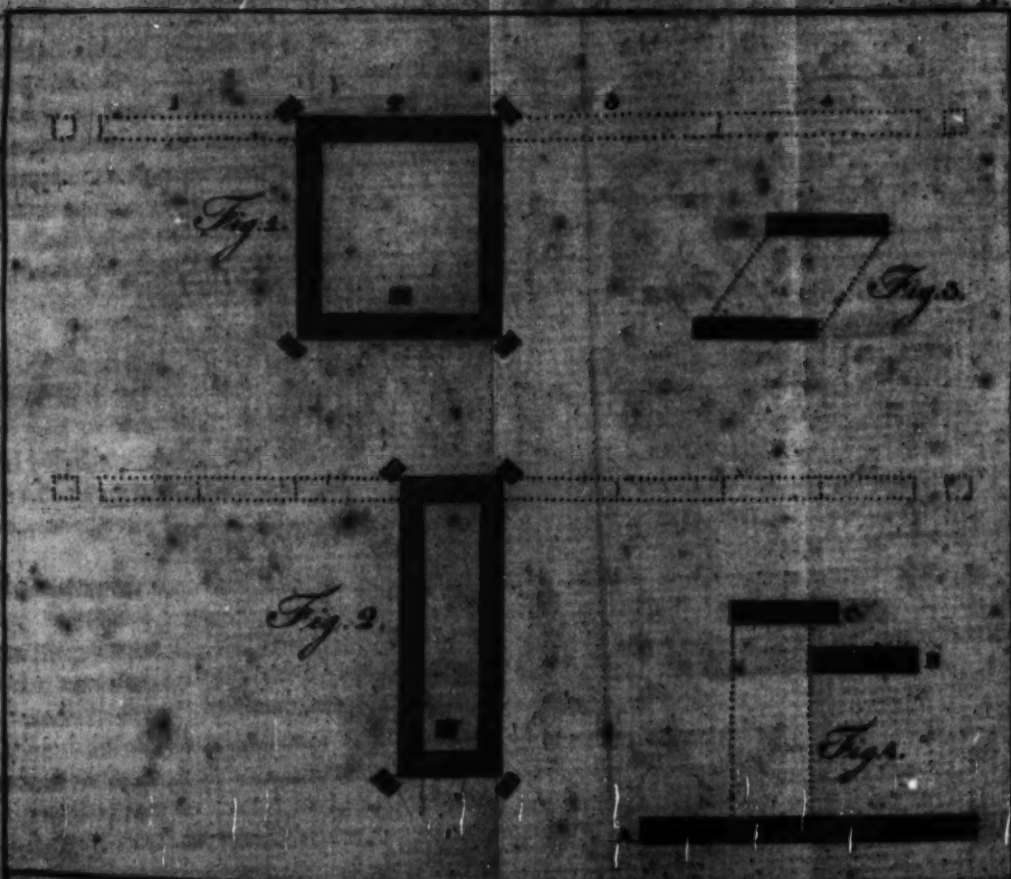
*March!*

The fourth subdivision marches forward to form the front face; the third, second and first wheel by files to form the right face; the fifth, sixth and seventh do the same to form the left face; and the eighth files along the line and makes the rear face. The grenadiers, or light infantry, cover the angles.

The









The directions for marching, firing, &c. are the same as in the foregoing; but it rarely, if ever, has occasion to march but by its front or rear faces. *See plate D. fig. 2.*

The battalion is formed by facings and wheelings; the reverse to those used to form it, by the following words of command:

*Take care to form the battalion!*

*From the square form the battalion!*

*March!—Halt!*

#### CHAP. X.

#### *Of passing a BRIDGE or DEFILE, and of the SIDE STEP.*

**T**HE drummer beats a march, and the battalion marches 'till it comes to the bridge. *Preparative, or, Take care to pass the bridge!*

*March!*

The platoon or subdivision opposite the bridge (which I here suppose to be the fifth subdivision) marches slowly forward; those and the grenadiers on its right face to the left; and those on the left face to the right; and they all file. Each subdivision of the right and left wing, as soon as it comes to the place from which the fifth marched off, faces to its proper front, and marches in the rear of the leading subdivision. This is to be done in alternate order, one from each wing, that is, the fourth, sixth, third, seventh, second, eighth.

eighty grenadiers or light-infantry in divisions. When the leading division has passed the bridge, it continues to march very slowly; the other subdivisions, as they pass, should advance briskly, with the side step, to the right or left, 'till they regain their proper places in battalion, and dress with the leading subdivision. See plate E.

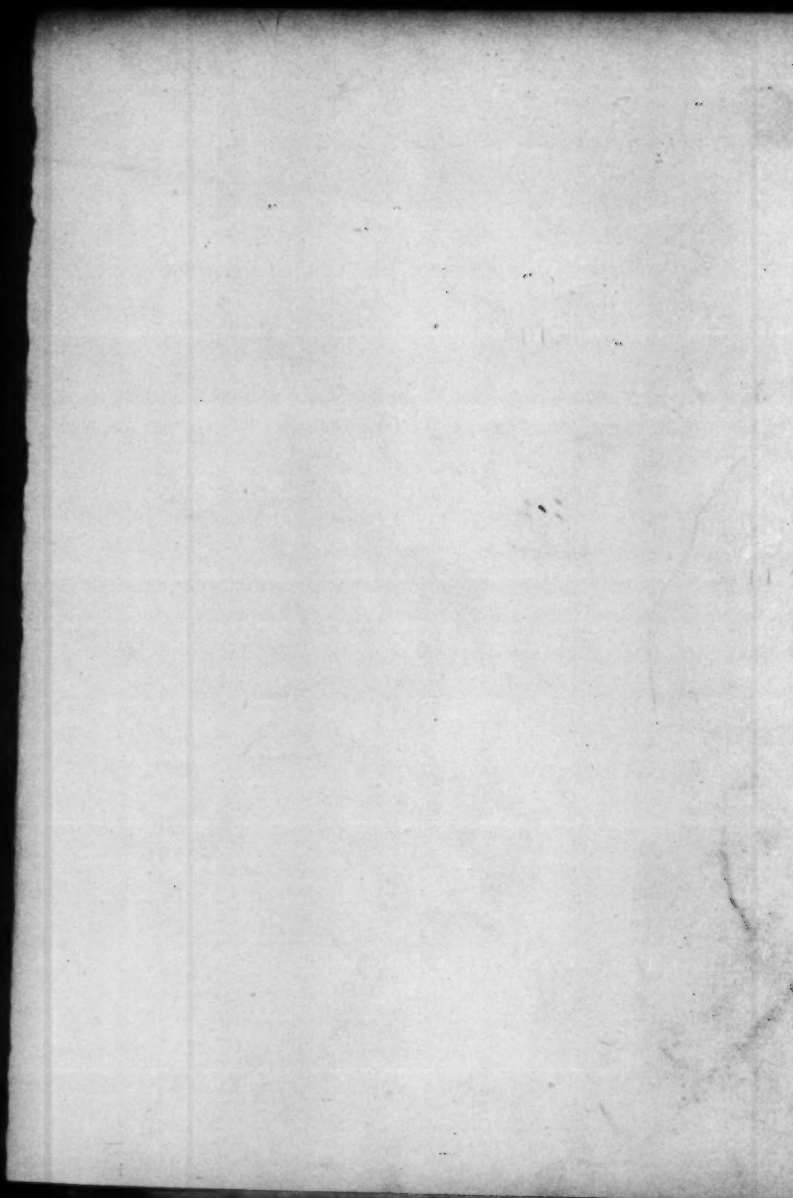
As marching in battalion is never practised but in day of battle, we must suppose it passes the bridge, &c. to attack an enemy on the other side, and as such enemy may take the opportunity of attacking and defeating it by *retail*,\* the subdivisions should recover, to be ready to fire, if necessary; but if it can be avoided the first should not fire 'till at least three have formed, and the other two are ready to support it. This firing should be carried on as slowly as possible, to give the rest time to come up.

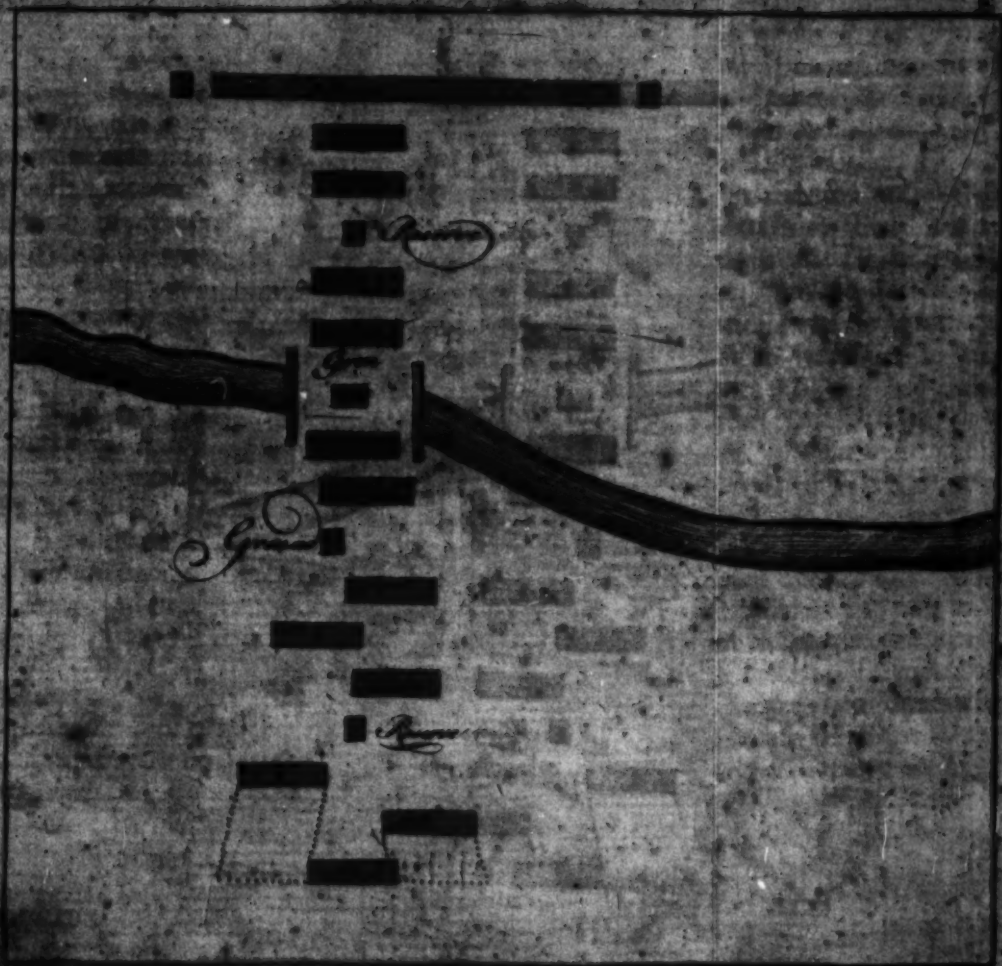
When a battalion is marching in column of platoons or subdivisions, and arrives at a narrow bridge, or other pass that will not admit the whole front of the platoon or subdivision, the

\* This is a term I do not remember to have seen in any English author on military affairs; but among the French the word *detail*, which, in mercantile affairs, has the same signification with our retail, is frequently applied to the military. I think I may with propriety use it, as it conveys a plain idea, and is shorter than any other manner in which the same thing can be expressed.











the usual manner of passing is, for the right or left half of the front rank to pass over, the other half facing to the right or left, as it may be requisite, filing to the ground the other half had occupied, then coming to its proper front, and marching, the second and all the following ranks do the same. When the two parts of each rank have passed over, they should again unite. The officers of the foremost divisions should give great attention to make their men march very slowly 'till the whole has passed, otherwise there will be a very long and straggling rear, which should always be carefully avoided.

### *Of the side step.*

The side step, which should properly be called the diagonal step, as it is not made directly either to the side or front, but between both, in order to gain ground each way, is very convenient on many occasions. The men should always step off with the foot which is on the side ground to be gained. See plate D. fig. 3. On all occasions where men are marching in column, and are to be formed in battalion, I prefer doing it by the side step rather than by filing or wheeling, as by the first they expose their flanks to the enemy, and by the latter they are more liable to fall into confusion, and it requires more time; but by the

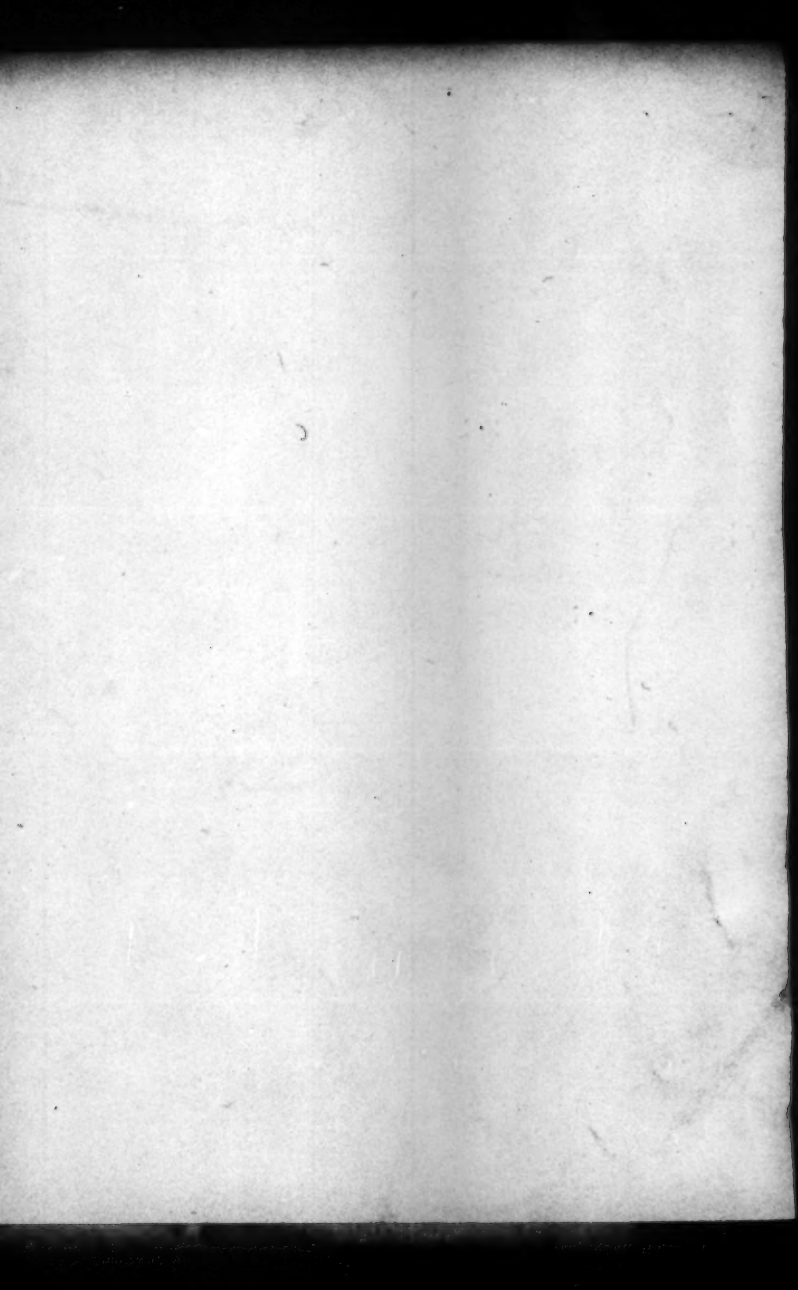
side step they always face the enemy, and every part of a division that has cleared the flank of the preceding one, may be fired, if necessary, without waiting 'till the whole is clear. It may be alledged that by filing this last advantage may be obtained by ordering the men to come to their proper front. This I grant; but when the division is once faced, it becomes fixed, and cannot gain ground, nor uncover more of its files; but by the side step it advances to the very last, and every step it takes it gains the fire of an additional file. See plate D. fig. 4. where *a* shews the enemy, *b* the leading division, and *c* one partly uncovered.

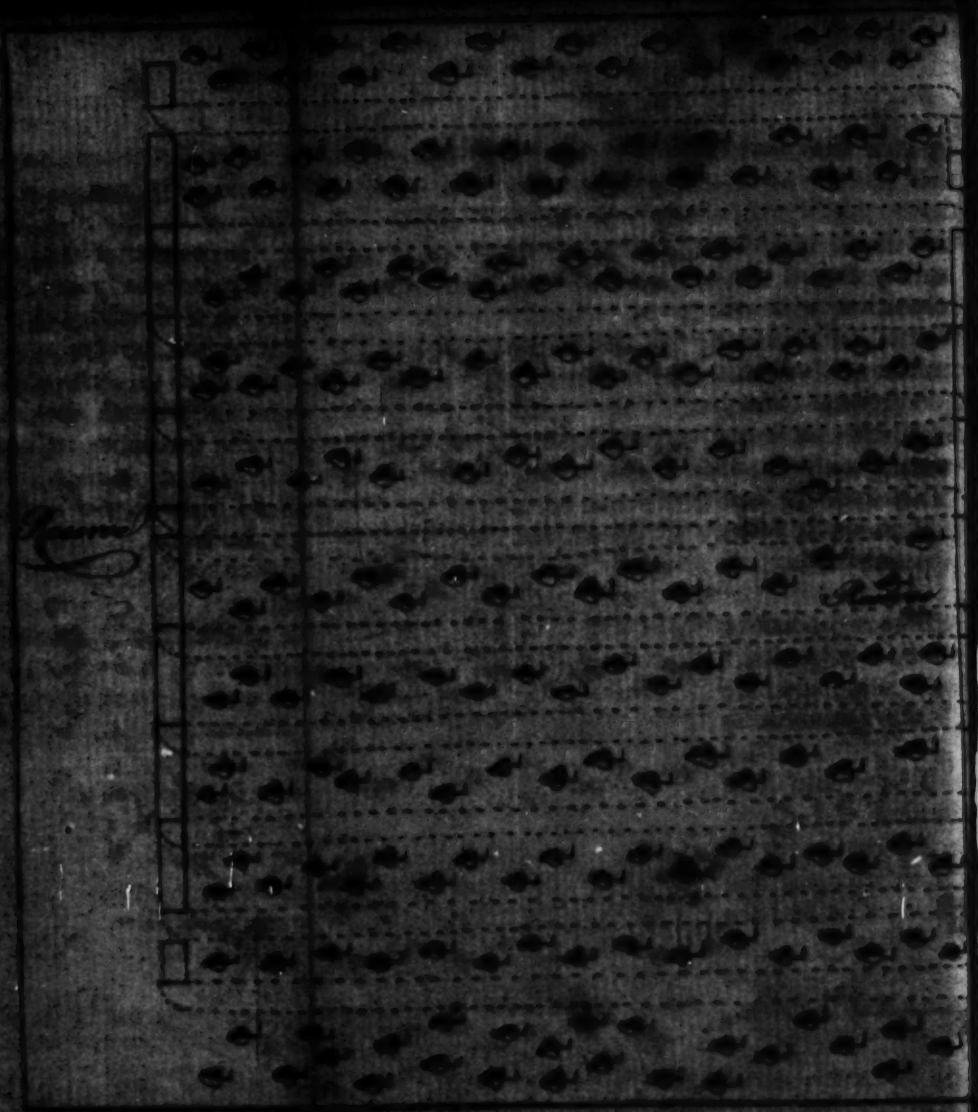
## CHAP. XI.

*Of passing through a wood.*

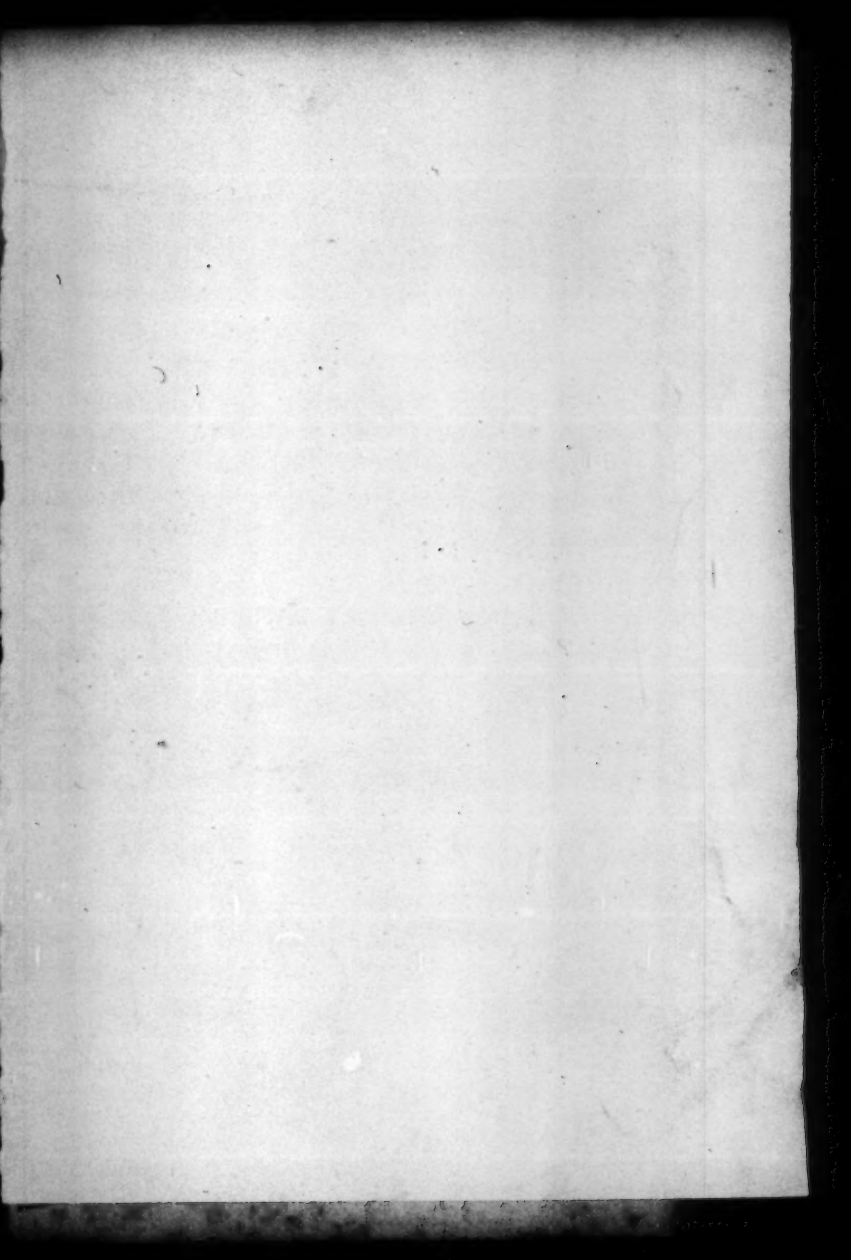
**I**F the battalion comes to a thick wood, having a narrow road through it, this being a defile, is to be passed as directed in the foregoing chapter; but if open, and clear of underwood, and no other circumstances, such as an enemy having possession of the skirts of it on the other side, it may be passed by each subdivision wheeling by files, and filing 'till it gets clear of the wood. When it has done this, the subdivisions should again wheel by files to the right or left to form the battalion.

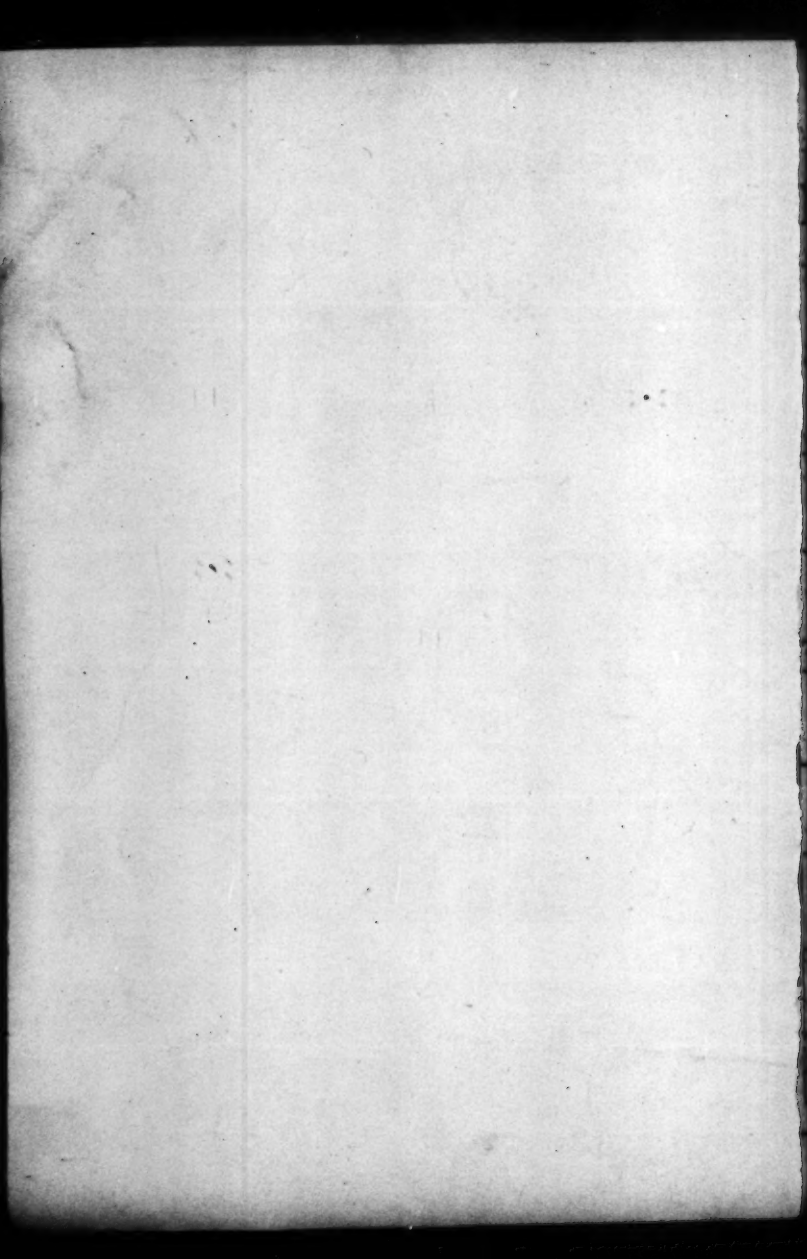
As the grenadiers or light-infantry divisions are smaller.











In case the enemy is in possession of the farther side of the wood, and the battalion is under a necessity of passing through, it must then pass in front in the best manner it can, and briskly attack the enemy with bayonets; the resolution with which this should be performed, may compensate for the badness of situation. When in the first case the battalion arrives at the edge of the wood, the commanding officer orders the drummer to cease beating a march, and the battalion halts.

*Take care the battalion! Face to the right!*

The whole faces to the right.

*Subdivisions! Wheel to the left by files!*

*March!*

The right-hand file of each subdivision files to the left, and is followed by the other files.

When the whole is well clear of the wood,  
*To the right wheel by files and form the battalion!*

*March!—Halt!*

The whole comes to its proper front, and dresses.

My reason for filing by subdivisions is, that the smaller the filing body, the sooner it will have passed and formed. See plate F.

CHAP.

smaller than subdivisions, generally by half, when they come to form that on the right will be too close to, and that on the left too far from, the battalion: Therefore they should file along the line till they recover their former distances.

## CHAP. XII.

*Of forming the solid column.*

**T**HE strength of a column is no way fixed, but depends on circumstances, as, the strength of the troops attacking; the nature of the ground the column is to pass over, which should be little, if at all, incumbered with trees, bushes, &c. that may retard and break such a body, whose principal merit consists in its weight occasioned by velocity and compactness. I shall give directions how to form it of one regiment, which will serve for any other number. If the regiment is drawn up three deep, it may form by grand-divisions, which will make a column twelve deep; but if it is only two deep, it should be by subdivisions, forming a column sixteen deep. Platoons would give too small a front and too long a rear.

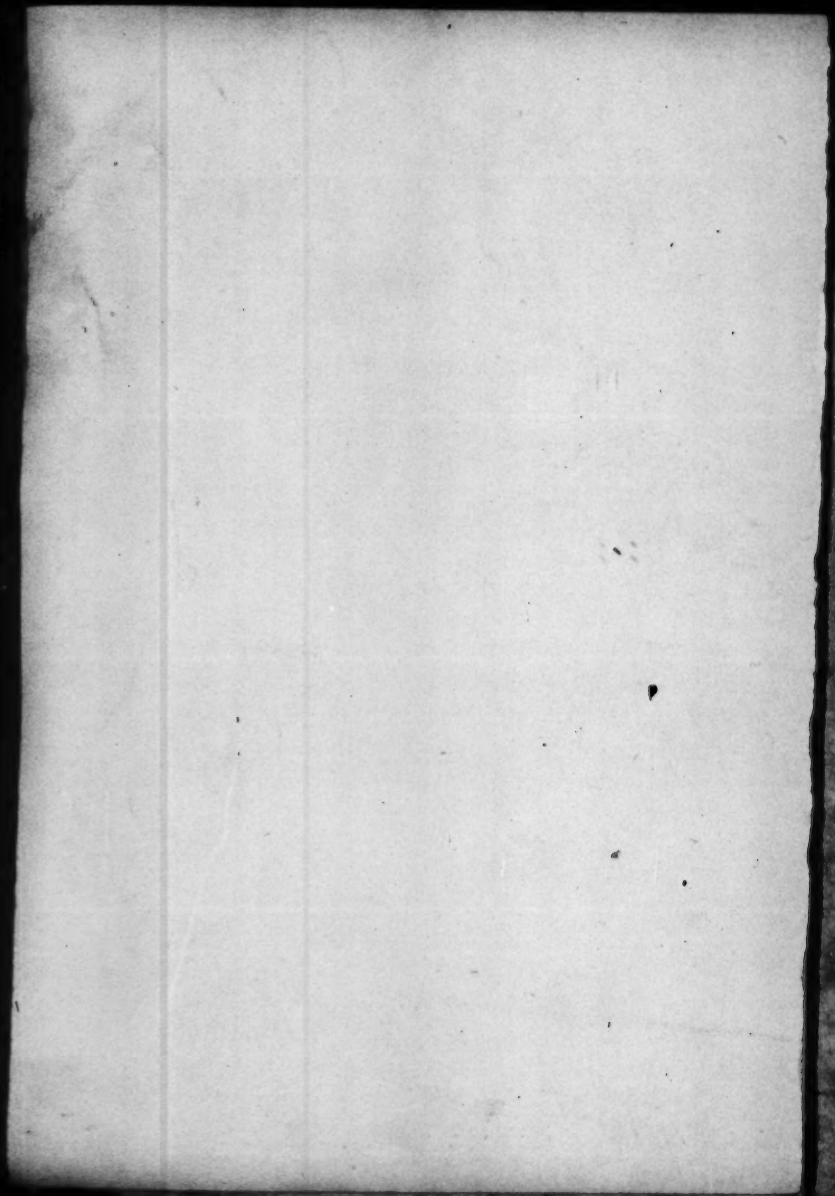
*Take care to form the solid column by subdivisions!  
Right-hand subdivision! Stand fast!—Face to  
the right!*

The second, and all the other subdivisions, and left grenadiers, face to the right.

*March!*

The first subdivision marches slowly forward, the rest file 'till each subdivision comes to the ground the first has marched from, when it should face to the front and join the preceding





# Reformers

- A Column Forward
- B Grenadiers on flanks
- C Column having broke through the Enemy
- D The Enemy
- E Grenadiers wheeling to Attack the Enemy in Front Flank & Rear







preceeding as close as possible, leaving just room enough for the men to march freely.

The grenadiers, instead of forming at the head of the column, would, I believe, be better in one or two files on the flanks, for a purpose I shall immediately mention. The leading files of the grenadiers should dress with the head of the column.

*Prepare to charge!*

The whole recovers. The three front ranks present their bayonets for the charge.

*March! or Charge!*

The whole column marches as briskly as possible, in order to break through the corps opposing, as soon as it has penetrated, the grenadiers on the flanks should face outwards and attack the enemy in front, flank and rear, which will effectually destroy that corps. See plate G.

*Take care to form the battalion!---March!*

If the ground will permit to form, by marching forward, when the word march is given, the leading division moves forward, and the other divisions recover their places in the battalion, by the side step, or when the first division is sufficiently advanced to make room for the second to wheel, it halts, the second wheels a quarter of a circle to the left, then a quarter of a circle to the right, and marches to its place in battalion; the third wheels

wheels to the left, marches 'till it has got to the left of the second, then wheels to the right and marches to its proper place; the fourth, fifth, &c. do the same 'till the whole is formed. If the ground will not allow the first to advance

*Leading subdivision! Stand fast!*

*Face to the left!*

The second, third, &c. divisions face to the left.

*March!*

The divisions that face file 'till each comes to the rear of the ground which it is to occupy in battalion, then faces to its proper front and marches to the left of the preceding one, with which it dresses.

### CHAP. XIII.

#### *Of breaking and rallying.*

**A**S the best regiments may sometimes be broken and rally again, it is not amiss to instruct the officers and men what they are to do if such a misfortune should befall them.

*Preparative.--Flam.*

On this last signal the men break and run confusedly to some distance.

*To arms.*

The officers must exert themselves to rally and form their men. The standard-bearer,

or

or ensigns, with the regimental colours, should take some proper post, that they may shew the men where they are to assemble.

#### CHAP. XIV.

*Of forming the square when marching in, open column, by subdivisions or grand-divisions.*

*Take care to form the square!—March!*

**T**HE leading subdivision halts, the second marches with the side step 'till it gets on the left of the first; the third marches to the ground the second just quitted, then wheels to the right; the fourth marches to the same ground and wheels to the left; the fifth marches to the ground the third occupied, and wheels to the right; the sixth marches with the side step to the left of the same ground, and wheels to the left; the seventh marches to make the rear face, and is followed by the eighth, which marches with the side step to its left. The grenadiers, or light-infantry, cover the angles, and the faces face outwards.

*Take care to reduce the square!*

The front face halts, the right face faces to its left, as does the left face to its right, the rear face comes to the right about.

*March!*

The right subdivisions of the front and rear

rear march forward, the left-hand ditto march with the side step to the right, 'till they get in the rear of the former. The subdivisions of the right face wheel by files to their left, and those of the left face do the same to their right, 'till they have got into their places; the grenadiers, or light infantry, cover the flanks. The whole must continue marching 'till each subdivision has gained its proper distance from the preceding one.

*Halt!*

*Take care to form grand-divisions! --- March!*

The first, third, fifth and seventh subdivisions march forward; the second, fourth, sixth and eighth, by the side step, to their left, till each gets on the left of its preceding subdivision. The former should move slowly, the latter more briskly.

*Take care to form the square!*

The front halts; the other three grand-divisions march to half distance.

*March!*

The right subdivisions of the second and third grand-divisions wheel to their right to form the right face; the left subdivisions wheel to their left to form the left face. The fourth grand-division marches forward to form the rear face.

*Halt!*

The right, left and rear faces face outwards.

*Take*

*Take care to reduce the square!*

The right, left and rear faces go in the right about; the front and rear faces stand fast.

*March!*

The subdivisions of the right face wheel to their left; those of the left face to their right, and the proper subdivisions unite and form grand-divisions; when united, they come to the right about.

*The drummer beats a march.*

The leading grand-division marches forward; when it has got to a proper distance the second marches, and the same is observed by all the others.

## CHAP. XV.

*To form the oblong square.*

**A**S in the last chapter the battalion was supposed marching by grand-divisions, must be reduced to sub-divisions, which may be done either by forming the battalion and wheeling by subdivisions, or the grand may be reduced to subdivisions on the march.

*Take care to form from grand to subdivisions!*

*March!*

The right-hand subdivisions of each grand-division march forward; the left-hand subdivisions

divisions march, by the side step, to their right, 'till each falls into the rear of its right-hand subdivision.

*Take care to form the oblong square!*

All the subdivisions, but the first, march to half distance.

*March!*

The right platoons of each subdivision, but the first and eighth, wheel to the right to form the right face; the left-hand ditto wheel to the left to form the left face; the eighth marches to form the rear face.

*Halt!*

The rear face goes to the right about, and faces outwards.

*Take care to reduce the square!*

The platoons that formed the right face face to their left; those of the left face to their right; and the rear face comes to the right about.

*March!*

The front and rear faces stand fast. The platoons of the right face wheel by files to their left, as do those of the left face to their right, 'till they unite in subdivisions.

*The drummer beats a march.*

The first subdivision marches forward; when it has got to a proper distance, the second steps off, and is followed in the same manner by the others.

*Take*

*Take care to form the battalion &  
Subdivisions ! To the left wheel !—March !*

## CHAP. XVI.

*Of forming on potence, or gallows, half a square, &c.*

**A**S a battalion is liable to be attacked in rear, or on its flanks, as well as in front, it should be prepared to defend itself in all cases. If attacked on all sides, the square must be formed ; but as it may be attacked on one or both flanks, or in rear, and on one flank, on that some part may be protected by the nature of the ground ; in any of these cases to form the square would be wrong, as the face or faces so secured, or not attacked, would be useless, and their assistance lost to those that are : Therefore the battalion should be formed on potence or gallows, or in half a square, as occasion may require ; but as the length of the legs must depend on the nature of the ground to be occupied, it is impossible to fix on any number of platoons or subdivisions for each, consequently to ascertain the proper word of command. The commanding officer should go himself, or send the major or adjutant, to face or wheel the number that may be requisite. The grenadiers, or light-infantry, must be disposed of on the angles, or rather, parts where they may be useful. The inspection of the figures in  
plate

plate *H.* will make the matter clearer than any written directions.

*Fig. 1.* Shews a battalion forming the gallows, its right being covered with an impassable river.

*Fig. 2.* A battalion drawn up in gallows, its rear covered by a wood. In this case all the avenues in the wood should be stopped with felled trees, and some grenadiers, light-infantry or fiddemen placed in the wood.

*Fig. 3.* A battalion forming half a square, its right and rear covered by a rivulet with steep banks. In this case some of the detached companies\* should be posted on its banks, for the same reason they are directed to be posted in the wood in the foregoing case.

*Fig. 4.* A battalion forming half a square, with its rear covered by a hollow way, and its left by a wood. Here some of the detached companies should be stationed on the inner bank of the hollow way, and in the wood, where an abatis should be formed as directed under figure 2.

## CHAP. XVII.

*Of following a charge with bayonets, and dismissing the regiment.*

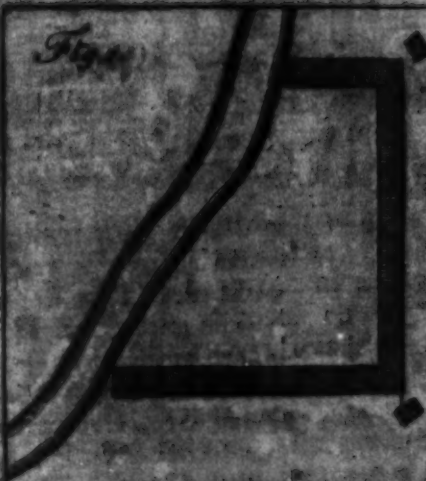
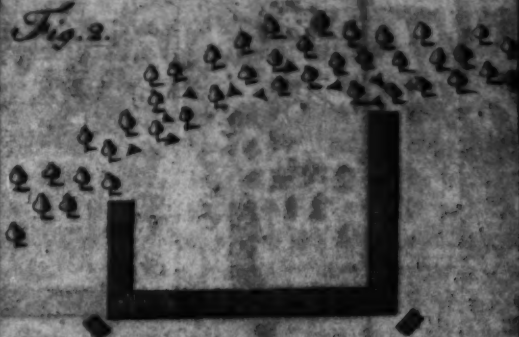
**W**HEN a battalion perceives another ready to charge it, which is generally done

\* The detached companies I understand the grenadiers and light-infantry, who, though part of the regiment, are not of the battalion, properly so called.







*Fig. 1.**Fig. 2.**Fig. 3.**Fig. 4.*



done by firing a volley at a small distance, and following the smoke, it should put itself in the best posture to sustain it. This is difficult, as the force the assailants acquire, by the quickness of their motions, is not easily resisted. The best method of doing it is, I believe, the following: The front rank should kneel, support their left arm by resting the left elbow on the left knee, and with the right keeping the butt of the musket to the left breast; the second rank should present their bayonets in the same manner, covering the intervals between the bayonets of the front rank, the men inclining a little forward; the rear rank should stand recovered, and with their shoulders support the backs of the second rank. By this method the bayonets would project farther from the men's bodies than those of the regiment charging; and, as enlarging the base of any body, and diminishing its height, renders it more stable, the front rank kneeling would not be so easily overturned as it would standing.

Having gone through all that I conceive necessary to be done in the field, it is time to dismiss the battalion by the following words of command, the battalion being formed:

*Rear ranks! Open backwards to your former distance!—March!*

The centre and rear ranks fall back to open order,

order, or they go to the right about, and march, the rear eight paces, the centre four. The officers in the front rank step forward four paces, those in the rear come forward and dress with the others.

*Halt!*

If the rear ranks went to the right about they come again about to their proper front and cover their file leaders. The officers order their fusées.

*Pass your firelocks!—Rest on your arms!—Return your bayonets!—Shoulder!*

*Grenadiers! Face to the right!—March!*

Having faced, the right division files to such a distance as to leave room for the left division, and also a space equal to the front of the company between its left and the right of the battalion. The left division files through the ranks.

*The drummers call is beat by the orderly drummer.*

The drum and fife major, with part of the drummers and fifers, form on the left of the left-hand colours, facing to the right. The ensign, with the colours, advances to the head of the drummers, and marches to the right, each colour or standard falling in as the drummers

\* When the men use powder, it is customary, before they return their bayonets, to order them to wipe them, that they may not rust in the scabbard; for which purpose every man should have an oiled rag in his pouch.

ners come up to them, the whole marching along the line 'till they arrive at the head of the grenadiers, or company that is to escort them. As they pass along the line, the men present, the drummers beat, and the officers salute with their hats.

When arrived at the head of the company, the captain, if the whole is to escort them, or the first-lieutenant, if only half the company, orders the men to fix their bayonets. The officer commanding the escort places himself at the head of the colours, and the rest in the following order: Colours, drummers and fifers, escort.

When the colours are got to some distance from the battalion,

*Shoulder!*—*Right-hand file of each company stand fast!*—*To the right close your files by companies!*

The files of each company, except the right, face to the right.

*March!*

The files close.

*Half!*

They come to their proper front.

The commanding officer then directs the officers or serjeants to march the companies to their respective parades, and dismiss them.

There being other things, besides the manual and evolutions, necessary for officers and men to know, I shall give directions for a few

of them, viz. Receiving and distributing orders in camp or garrison, mounting of guards, and precautions to be observed on a march.

### CHAP. XVIII.

*Of orders, how they are to be received and distributed.*

**O**RDERS, both in camp and garrison, are of two kinds: General, which are given by the commander in chief, or governor, and respect the whole camp or garrison; and regimental, which concern each particular regiment only. Of garrison orders some are permanent, which are generally fixed up in every guard-room; these contain general directions, as, the times of drums beating, mounting guard, and such other standing rules as are seldom varied; these are peculiarly distinguished by the title of garrison orders: Others given out daily, as, the parole, sign and counter-sign, and such others as circumstances may require.

General orders in camp are received from the commander in chief by the adjutant-general, who distributes them to the aid-de-camps of the inferior generals and brigade-majors; these give them to the adjutants of the regiments that constitute their respective brigades. In garrison the town-major receives the orders from the governor, and distributes them as before directed. As soon as an adjutant



jutant has received the general orders, he should communicate them to the officer commanding the regiment, who adds such as he thinks necessary for the particular government of his corps. Thus furnished, he orders the orderly drummer to beat the serjeants call. The orderly serjeants and corporals then summoned, repair to the usual place; the serjeants draw up in a rank, with the serjeant-major at their right; the corporals in another rank in the rear, three or four paces distant. The adjutant then orders the serjeants to wheel from the right and left, and form a ring round him, and order their arms; they then prepare their orderly books, pens and ink. The corporals form a circle round the serjeants, face outwards, and rest their firelocks to prevent any person approaching the ring while the parole is giving out. All these preparations made, the adjutant whispers the parole to the serjeant-major, he to the serjeant on his right, this to his next neighbour, till it comes round to the serjeant-major, who whispers it to the adjutant, that, if any mistake has been made, he may rectify it. This done, the corporals are ordered to close to the ring that they may hear the orders, when the adjutant gives out the sign and countersign,\* general and re-

K 2

gimental

\* The sign and countersign are motions by which

gimental orders, then dismisses the serjeants and corporals to carry the orders to their officers and men.

## CHAP. XIX.

### *Of guards in camp and garrison.*

**T**HE guards in camp are of two kinds, general and regimental: General guards are such as are mounted by detachments from each regiment, as advanced, artillery, ammunition and forage guards, a guard for each general officer, according to his rank. Regimental guards are the quarter and rear guards, the first commanded by a subaltern officer, the last by a non-commissioned officer, and both are furnished by their respective regiments.

The general officers guards are, For the commander in chief one captain, two subalterns and fifty men; a lieutenant-general one subaltern and thirty men; a major-general one subaltern and twenty men; a brigadier one serjeant and twelve men.

### Besides

a sentinel may, in the night particularly, distinguish a friend from a stranger; they are generally manual, and such as may make some noise, as, when any one approaches a sentinel, he (the sentinel) challenges and gives the sign, suppose a slap on his pouch, the other then gives the counter-sign, as, blowing his nose. These precautions are not generally taken in time of peace, but always when an enemy is near.

Besides these guards every regiment furnishes a picket, consisting of one captain, two subalterns and fifty men; these remain with their respective regiments 'till called out on particular occasions. Neither officers or men should undress themselves either by day or night, but remain always accoutered, with their arms ready to turn out on the first notice. The officers and men are always such as are first on command, that is, to mount guard the next day, if not called out sooner; for, if the picket, or any part thereof, once marches off the parade, though only for a few minutes, it is a tour of duty done, and the next on command must be warned to supply their place. The picket should turn out every morning, as soon as the guards march off the parade, and at retreat beating, when the officers should examine the men's arms and ammunition, to see that all is in proper order.

In garrison the most usual guards are the main, port or gate, barrier and barrack guards. The main guard is generally placed near the centre of the town, and commanded by a captain, though sometimes only by a subaltern, in which case it is usually the oldest on the parade. The port guards are one at each gate, mostly commanded by subalterns. When the ditch is surrounded by a covered way, there is generally a serjeant's guard posted in the place of arms opposite the gate

gate; this is detached from the post guard. The guard for the barracks is sometimes commanded by an officer, but generally only by a serjeant. If there are more barracks than one, each must have its guard.

In garrison there is always a picket, but in lieu of one from each regiment, as in camp, one generally serves the whole garrison. It is also customary to do duty by regiments, not detachments; or, if one regiment is not sufficient to furnish the necessary number, by brigades. The reason of this is, that every regiment may have an opportunity of assembling entire for exercise. The guards are generally made up by the town-major, on the grand parade, or, in his absence, by the adjutant, if only one regiment mounts, if more, by the oldest adjutant on the parade.

When the guards march off, those commanded by commissioned officers do it by beat of drum, unless during a siege, when this is omitted, that the enemy may not know the time and place of parading, as they would then direct their shells there. When the old guard has notice from its centinels that the new one is coming to relieve it, it turns out, if practicable, with its back to the guard-room, rests, and beats a march, if the new guard beats, otherwise not. The new guard draws up opposite the old, and rests, the officer commanding it advances to that of the old

old, to receive the orders relative to that guard. This done, the old orders, and the new shouldered, till the corporal has numbered the men, which he must do from right or left, as directed by the officer\*; he then takes off the centries† from the end where he began to number, and, with the corporal of the old guard, goes to relieve the centinels. When they are marched off, the officer of the new guard gives the word of command to his men to order, that they may rest their arms while the centries are relieving. When the corporal returns with the old centinels, he joins his guard, and makes his men order. The officers of both guards order their men to shoulder, and that of the old wheels his men and troops; or marches them to the parade, where they are to be dismissed; the new guard rests, and beats a march. As soon as the old guard is at some distance, the officer of the new makes his

\* The reason of this is, to prevent any man from previously computing when and where he will be posted, as such knowledge might enable him to combine with the enemy to betray his post.

† The corporal, when relieving the centries, should be very attentive that the old gives his orders distinctly to the new; he should also be particularly careful to examine every thing under the centry's charge, and if he finds any thing amiss, acquaint his officer therewith, otherwise he will be liable to be punished for his neglect. He should also be able to tell what centry was on duty at every particular post at any hour, that in case of complaint he may point out the man that is to answer it.

his recover and file by the right or left to the ground the old has quitted, and orders them to ground or lodge their arms.

To prevent any neglect, either by the officers or centinels, they should be visited often. In the night this is to be done by rounds, which are mostly made by the following persons: The governor, when he pleases, the field officer of the day, and town-major; the time uncertain, to keep the people always alert. The usual manner as follows: The person who is to go the rounds must repair to the main guard, and get a serjeant with four or six men, and a drummer to carry a lantern; he then proceeds to any guard he chooses to begin with. When he approaches a centinel, he (the centinel) challenges, and is answered by the serjeant, Who comes there? Rounds. What rounds? Grand, or governor's, rounds. Pass rounds, and keep clear of my arms. (A centry, particularly in the night, should never permit any one to come within arm's length of him.) When the rounds approach the centry at or near the guard, Who comes there? Rounds. What rounds? Grand rounds. Stand, rounds. Turn out the guard! When the guard is under arms, the officer sends a serjeant and a file of men to examine the rounds. When he comes within a small distance of them, Advance, serjeant, and give the parole! The serjeant

jeant of the rounds advances, and whispers the parole to the serjeant of the guard, who receives him with his halbert, unscrewed bayonet, pointed to his breast to stab him if he proves an impostor. When he has received the parole, he returns to his guard, and reports it to his officer, leaving his men to watch the rounds. When the officer is satisfied, he sends back the serjeant to pass the round, who draws up his men on one side, and says, Pass rounds. The rounds advance, and, when near the officer of the guard, the latter steps forward two or three paces, and gives the parole to the officer of the rounds, and informs him of any extraordinary that may have happened. The round then proceeds to some other guard.

A report in writing from every guard should be made to the governor, by the person commanding the guard, as soon as he has dismissed it, though, to avoid so much trouble, the garrison orders often direct the officers of the port and other inferior guards to send, by a corporal, before the guard is relieved, a report sealed up to the captain of the main guard, who gives them, with his report, to the governor. The serjeants of the barrack guards only report to the senior officer in each barrack. When a guard is detached from another, as in the case of a barrier guard detached from the port guard, the person who

commander makes his report only to the officer of the guard from which he is detached.

This is all I think necessary to say relative to guards, except shewing how a roster for the officers' tours of duty is kept.

## A REGIMENTAL ROSTER.

### Capt.

*T. Padgett,*

*Mic. Hedge,*

*Tom. Pearce,*

*+ Gills. Keen,*

*Rob. Caibbert,*

*Will. Huxen,*

*Geo. Rawson,*

*The. Nugent,*

*capt. lieut. }*

### First lieuts.

*Will. Brown,*

*Will. Pearce,*

*+ Jof. Green,*

*Mich. Allen,*

*Tom. Drummond,*

*Will. Parr,*

*Peter Dick,*

*Geo. English,*

### Second lieuts.

*Arch. Brown,*

*Rich. Brown,*

*Rob. Prosser,*

*Pol. Ramsford,*

*+ John Gill,*

*Rob. Yard,*

*John Head,*

*Nich. Fudge,*

*Tom. Hart,*

*John Howard,*

### Ensigns.

*Peter Butler,*

*Rich. Taylor,*

*John Jeffers,*

*+ John Pallant,*

*Mich. Mitchell,*

*Gills. Vanyish,*

*John Percel,*

*The. Pearce,*

*John Erwin,*

*Will. Huxen.*

### Suppose

This roster supposes a regiment, whose field officers have companies. The line shows the Bostonian share a company; + denotes officers absent.



Suppose the subalterns down to ensign Taylor have done their duty, and six subalterns are to be warned for guard, Lieut. Crabbe being absent, we must proceed to Rob. Prais, John Jeffers, Peter Ramsford, Mich. Jones, Mich. Minder and Thos. Broadhead, who are the persons next for duty.

## CHAP. XX.

*Of marches, and how to guard against a surpris.*

**T**O conduct men on a march properly, is a material point that requires much attention on the part of the officers, to guard against many inconveniencies and dangers, especially when an enemy is in the neighbourhood; for which reason the column should be as short as possible, as a long rear is very dangerous, exposing the head or tail of a regiment to be destroyed, by some sudden attack, before it can be succoured. This shews that marching by files should, as far as possible, be avoided, neither should the divisions be so large as to fill up the whole breadth of the road, because every carriage they meet will break them, and throw the men into confusion; to avoid which, a space should be left on one side for a waggon, &c. to pass; this space will also be convenient for the major, or other field officers, to ride from one part to another.

another, and examine in what order the regiment marches, and for the adjutant to carry orders: On which account March on a column of platoons or subdivisions as most eligible. The officers who command the leading divisions should move very slowly, to allow the rear to keep up, which it can never do if the front marches fast. When a narrow bridge, broken road, &c. obliges the men to double, the head should move as slow as possible, and often halt, to allow the rear to pass and form.

As nothing military loses a man with more disgrace than being surprised, every officer entrusted with a command should be particularly careful to guard against it; he may be beaten, yet gain reputation, if his disposition has been judicious and his retreat prudently conducted, but a surprise does not admit of any excuse. To guard against a surprise on a march admits of certain rules applicable to all cases, and differing only in point of numbers. The following precautions should always be taken when there is the most distant possibility of being attacked by an enemy: I suppose the corps marching to be a battalion of four or five hundred men, a lieutenant and forty men, with two sergeants, three or four corporals and one drummer should be detached for an advanced guard. This officer should be careful never to advance to such a distance

stance from the main body as to endanger his being cut off or beaten before he can be relieved or retreat; but the exact distance cannot be ascertained, as that depends on circumstances. In an open champaign country, where the view is not interrupted for a considerable distance, he may take more latitude than if it was intersected by rivulets and hollow ways, or covered with trees in clusters, shrubs and buildings, or sunk into caves and quarries, or any thing else which might conceal a body of men, as, standing corn, high grass, &c. in these cases he should be very circumspect. Before he marches off he should detach a serjeant and ten men twenty or thirty paces before his guard, with orders to advance a few men on the right and left of his front, who are to examine every place near them, where an enemy may lie concealed. The serjeant should use the same precaution as he advances, searching every place he passes near; if he sees or is informed of any thing suspicious, he is to halt and inform his officer thereof, who is to have the place strictly examined; and if he makes any discovery requisite for the commanding officer to know, he must send him immediate notice thereof. The serjeant should stop all passengers, and now and then take up some of the country people, all whom he should send to the officer of the guard, who is strictly to examine them

con-

concerning any troops that may have lately  
 been in the neighbourhood, their number, kind  
 and every other circumstance necessary to be  
 known. If he suspects any to deceive him, he  
 should send him or them to the commanding  
 officer, that they may be there detained till the  
 suspicion is confirmed or removed. If the  
 former, he should be punished; if the latter,  
 dismissed. All others should be well treated.  
 When the sergeant comes to a large village,  
 coppice, grove, or other place, where a con-  
 siderable body of men may be concealed, he  
 should not enter it till it has been thoroughly  
 examined by his people. In case it be a village,  
 he would do well to seize some of the inha-  
 bitants, whom he is to examine, informing  
 them that they will be kept till the battalion  
 has passed the village, and if any enemy, which  
 they do not give information of, is found con-  
 cealed there, they will certainly be hanged.  
 The lieutenant should send a corporal and four  
 or six men on each of his flanks, who are them-  
 selves diligently to search every suspicious  
 place, or, if at a considerable distance from  
 the guard, send two men on that service, who  
 should search all bushes, high corn or grass,  
 or other place where an enemy may be con-  
 cealed by lying on their faces; and, if any  
 are discovered, they are immediately to give  
 the alarm by firing one or both of their pieces,  
 and

and rejoin their corporal, who, if necessary, must retreat leisurely in the main body, watching the enemy's motions.

I suppose the battalion marches by subdivisions, as that is as large a front as most roads will admit of; but where there is room for grand-divisions they will be best, as the larger the front the shorter the line of march will be, which is an article of no small consequence. The officers should be particularly attentive to preserve the proper distance between the divisions, that they may have room to wheel and form, if necessary, without confusion; they should also be careful to keep the men as much as possible in their ranks. The commanding officer should detach a corporal and six or eight men on each flank who ought to examine all places, as directed, for the flanking parties of the advanced guard. The officers commanding subdivisions should be directed, when the drum beats a long roll to form to the right or left, as the subdivision next to them, from that part where the alarm comes, whether front or rear, does. A drum should be always kept braced in front, near rear and centre, to give the alarm or any other necessary signal.

The last precaution is the rear guard. The strength of it must depend on circumstances, viz. The number of prisoners there may be,

in this is the place where they are generally secured, or the probability there may be of the enemy's falling on the rear. Where neither of these make a strong party necessary, a subaltern and twenty men will be sufficient, as their principal business will be to prevent straggling, and drive on those that loiter, and the officer should be very careful not to allow any man to stay behind his guard. See *Plate I.*

Where troops are likely to serve together, they should follow the same discipline, and observe the same rules and customs, otherwise when detachments of them unite, they will be apt to fall into confusion.

### REFERENCES for I.

See *Battle of marching*, page 20. *See Plate I.*  
*Advanced guard*, page 21. *See Plate I.*  
*See Sergeant's party*, page 22. *See Plate I.*  
*See Flank guard*, page 23. *See Plate I.*  
*See Corporal's flanking parties*, page 24. *See Plate I.*  
*See Also detailed to examine suspicious places*.

### CONCLUSION.

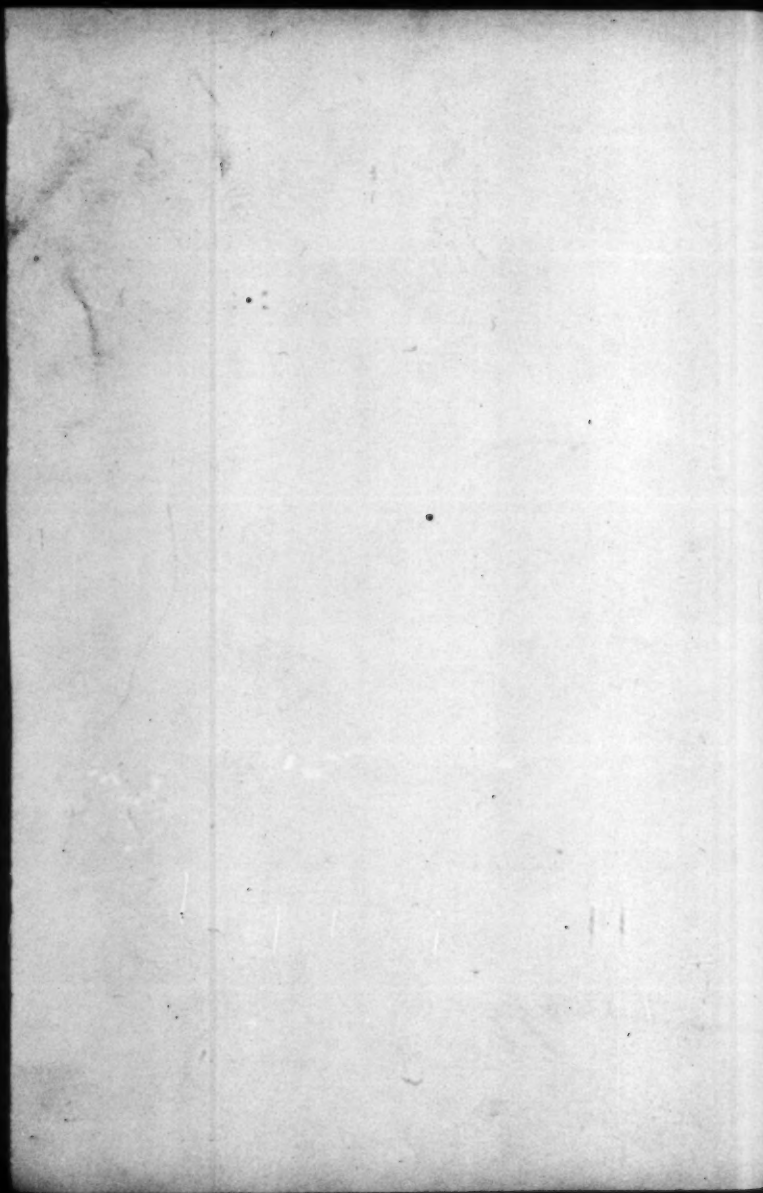
**B**EFORE I dismiss this subject, I beg leave to give such advice to the officers as twenty-six years experience has suggested. I would recommend procuring the good-will of the men, who soon become good judges of









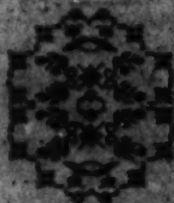


an officer's merits or demerits: This will not only be advantageous to the officers in particular, but to the service in general, as the men, in time of danger, will more readily follow those they esteem; nor is the task difficult, requiring only some attention to a few plain and easy maxims, as, doing strict justice to the men in all their rights, and keeping them to their duty, but without unnecessary harshness or cruelty, as this procures hatred; neither should the reins of discipline be too relaxed, as the men will certainly despise such officers. Tho' soldiers in general are chiefly kept to their duty more by fear of punishment than other motives, yet the rule is not so general as to be without exception, some being guided by superior considerations; to this officers should attend and treat their men accordingly. That soldiers have sometimes principles and a way of thinking superior to the common run of mankind, the following story, which I had from a French officer, evinces: "A captain of the corps his gentleman belonged to, on some occasion beat one of his men; the fellow went away grumbling, and said he would find an opportunity of making his captain repent these blows. Some time after in an engagement, the captain was wounded. This soldier, who happened to be near him, took him up and carried him to  
M a place

replace of less danger; and when he laid him  
 down said, Sir, do you remember the beating you  
 gave me on such an occasion? Yes. I then  
 told you you would be sorry for it. He then  
 turned about and went to his post." There  
 is a method of keeping the men in order,  
 which I have successfully practised when on  
 detachment without officers sufficient to hold  
 a court-martial, and which might, I believe, be  
 practised at all times. It is to have the men  
 tried for small offences by their peers or  
 brethren, a court-martial, to consist of a non-  
 commissioned officer and four privates. The  
 men are generally ingenious in contriving  
 punishments that expose the delinquent to the  
 ridicule of his comrades, such as standing cen-  
 tury with a broom-stick on his shoulder at the ne-  
 cessary house, dunghill, or such places; wearing  
 his coat turned inside out; sweeping the bar-  
 rack-yard out of his turn, &c. This is attended  
 with this additional advantage, that the men  
 are spies on one another, and ever ready to dis-  
 cover the trespasses of their comrades, parti-  
 cularly such as have been tried and are desir-  
 ous to bring others into the scrape, by which  
 means several offences, that would never reach  
 the officers ears, are detected. To field-offi-  
 cers I would recommend keeping the officers  
 under their command to their duty, at the same  
 time considering they have gentlemen to deal  
 with,

with, therefore treating them with good manners even in their reproofs, unless where an officer, by his conduct, forfeits all claim to that title, in which case the commanding officer of a corps ought, in justice to his regiment and the publick, to get rid of such a person as soon as possible. I have known field officers who had a method of giving genteel hints that answered better than punishment.

F I N I S.



Directions to the Bookbinder for  
fixing the Plates.

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